



COWBOY BUILDER SENT TO PRISON

Report by John Scott

A COWBOY builder who preyed on older women has been locked up for 18 months.

Shameless Stephen Spurling conned one 75-year-old into paying almost £17,500 – twice the proper charge – for shoddy work on her home that did not need doing.

Then he fleeced a 62-year-old of £1,080 for repairs that were never carried out to an alleged hole in the roof along with faulty guttering and rotting wood which he said had to be paid for in cash before he started work, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The callous 41-year-old – trading as Aspect Roofing – twice took her from the Cradley Heath address to the bank to withdraw more money before disappearing with it, said Miss Emma Rutherford, prosecuting.

Spurling repaired paving at the Halesowen home of the older victim before spotting other alleged problems with a chimney, drains and damp patches in the garage which he offered to fix in October 2013. She trusted him and agreed to the work.

'Special' paint put on the garage floor and walls cracked almost immediately.

He promised to put it right but never returned, prompting the victim to contact Dudley Trading Standards officers in April 2014.

Standard

A chartered surveyor said the paint was worthless, just like the drain that was not even connected to a channel or underground system.

The rear chimney and flashing had not been touched and repairs to the paving and drainage channel were well below the standard expected from a 'reasonably competent operative,' concluded an official report that reckoned the reasonable cost for the work, if carried out properly, was £8,300.

Spurling was traced and interviewed but went on the run, finally giving himself up in March this year. Miss Ramya Nagesh, defending, said he had been a competent roofer and builder for 20 years before his life started to unravel and he turned to drink.

He admitted running a business to defraud customers between October 1, 2013 and March 25, 2014, trading without professional diligence and unfair trading.

Spurling, of no fixed address, was jailed by Recorder Nicholas Syfret QC who told him: "You ripped off elderly customers by doing shoddy and unnecessary work while charging too much. You milked them for money in a gross breach of trust."

"They expected you to do the work properly but you did not. You are a cowboy builder."

ROARING SUCCESS AS CARNIVAL ATTRACTS 7,000



Bikers Steve Evans and Anne McKeown raise money for the Royal British Legion at the Halesowen Carnival in Highfield Park

The sun shone over the bostin' Black Country for the annual Halesowen Carnival.

The extravaganza hit record numbers, with organisers reporting entrance figures as high as 7,000.

Attractions ranged from wrestling to dog shows – and for the first time a food and drink festival was introduced.

One of the organisers, Councillor Stuart Henley, said the turnout was better than expected. "The event extended onto the second

field. The security and first aid reckon we had six or seven thousands and we usually about two or three.

"We had the weather on our side which was great. We had four bars and about six or seven food stalls and they all sold out by about 7pm."

Councillor Henley said preparations were under way for next year and a number of traders and food stalls had already signed up. But organisers are hoping more volunteers

and sponsors will come forward ahead of the next event in order to make it even better.

"We've already started organising for next year. Most of the stalls, bars and food have put a form in for next year already. We urge anyone who wants to have a stall should get in touch as soon as possible."

"Anyone who wants to help us out with sponsorship or volunteering should get in touch," he said.

● Capers – Page 5

LEISURE

Brushing up for a fresh Hippodrome

CAMPAIGNERS are putting a fresh gloss on their battle to breathe new life into Dudley Hippodrome.

Volunteer workers have started repainting parts of the outside of the Castle Hill landmark while temporarily halting efforts to clear out rubble and furniture from inside the former theatre and bingo hall. They have impressive plans to rejuvenate the site with a three storey glass extension to the building and an extension of the foyer.

Gordon Downing, chairman of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome, said: "We are now looking at the possibility of grant aid."

PLEDGE

Council vows tough stance on travellers

COUNCIL bosses have vowed they will get tougher on illegal traveller camps.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader at Dudley Council, said the authority will work closer with police and use eviction powers where legally possible to tackle illegal encampments on public open spaces.

"We will not tolerate people who illegally set up camp on public land."

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FOOTBALL

Tournament in aid of heart foundation

A FOOTBALL tournament is being organised to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation.

Gurcharan and Herjinder Bhuijhangy from Dudley, are organising a five-a-side charity football tournament at Goals, Cakemore Road, Blackheath on July 22.

Teams can enter to take part with a maximum of seven players, adult teams cost £70 and children's teams £30. To register, call 0121 561 3000 or 07762 521584 before July 20.

INSIDE

THEY'RE OFF FOR BIG RACE



PAGE 4

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A POLICE officer who bravely tackled a man wielding a large knife in a street has received an award for his commitment to protecting the public.

Pc Wayne Trueman quickly responded to reports of men seen with a blade in Mill Street, Brierley Hill, last November.

He spotted a suspect waving a 24cm knife in the street and, fearing for the safety of others in the area, courageously approached the armed man. Pc Trueman sprayed the suspect with CS-type spray after he refused to put the weapon down.

The man threw the kitchen knife into a garden and fled but was caught after a foot chase.

by Pc Trueman who suffered a facial injury while arresting him.

A 42-year-old man was found guilty of possessing a knife in public and jailed for three months last December.

Pc Trueman was awarded a Chief Constable's Commendation for his actions at an awards ceremony at Tally Ho last week.

Sergeant Richard Galbraith, from Brierley Hill police, said: "This was a real show of bravery from Pc Trueman.

"He was acutely aware of the risk posed to himself and others and was prepared to put himself in danger to protect the public," Sgt Galbraith added.

A DRIVER who smashed into a car killing the front-seat passenger as he used a busy dual carriageway 'as a race track', has been jailed for more than five years.

James Mills, aged 23, had been racing another car on the busy Pedmore Road, near Merry Hill.

One motorist described his black Ford Focus, which had been modified to make it more powerful, as hurtling past him 'like a rocket'.

The victim was Vijaya Mistry, a 74-year-old grandmother, who was sitting next to her husband in their Mondeo as he waited to turn right into The Gateway. She was thrown through the passenger window and died of her injuries later in hospital.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Mills had been travelling at up to 80mph – twice the limit – as he competed with a white Citroen on February 3.

Ms Cathlyn Orchard, prosecuting, said the main cause was the high speed of the Focus.

Investigating officers said Mills' car had covered 450 metres in just 15 seconds from a standing start. As it passed the BP station it was doing 73mph.

Mills, who tested negative for drink and drugs, owned up immediately and expressed genuine remorse and concern for his victims, the court heard.

In defence, Ms Heidi Kubik said he had the courage to make admissions at the scene.

"It is a sad feature of the case that the victim was ejected from the car because she wasn't wearing a seat belt," she said.

Mills, of School Road, Quarry Bank, Brierly Hill, admitted causing death by dangerous driving. He sobbed as he was jailed for five years and four months and banned from driving for seven years on his release.

Members of iconic 80s band Bucks Fizz performed their classic hits and new numbers on their latest Make Believe tour, which coincides with the original group's 35th anniversary. The band, comprising

Cheryl Baker, Mike Nolan and Jay Aston formerly of Bucks Fizz, with special guest Bobby McVey, turned back the clock on Thursday night – with cheers and applause before they even got on stage.

Combined with nostalgic footage of the band through the years played on a screen behind them, this was a show that took the audience right back to their teenage years.

The 1981 track, Piece Of The Action, went down a storm, with some audience members dancing in the wings throughout.

A poignant ballad was delivered by Jay in song 'Great Expectations', which was accompanied by footage of the late Marilyn Monroe.

A REVAMP of traffic lights in Dudley will be carried out after more than £600,000 was secured from the government.

Traffic signals along the A461 through Brierley Hill and A4101 in Pensnett and Kingswinford will be refurbished after Dudley Council secured £660,000 from the Department for Transport to spend on the maintenance.

Delays will be expected while the work is carried out.

The work is expected to begin this summer and will tie in to improve transport infrastructure ahead of the new Midland Metro tram line which will run from Wednesday to Dudley.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We will notify residents if they will be impacted."

STRIKE action at Dudley Council has been averted after staff agreed to changes to their contracts.

Bosses say the revised terms and conditions will save the council more than £1.6m over the next three years.

Staff originally rejected proposals in an initial ballot to 'test the water' over the appetite for industrial action.

The new agreement means that staff will be paid 10p less per mile for mileage allowances, meaning they will get 45p – the HMRC recommended amount – compared to the 55p per mile previously. Staff will also have to take three days unpaid leave and member allowances will be reduced.

Overtime payments for anyone earning over £36,000 will also be stopped, in a bid to save £77,000.

A FORMER Co-op supermarket in Halesowen remains on the market nearly one year on. The site on Halesowen Road, near the Kent Road island, has been up for let for around £190,000 a year by Sellers surveyors. The building has remained empty since early 2015.



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HomeCLAD

NEWS IN BRIEF

Free car parking trial is extended

A FREE parking trial to boost trade across the borough has been extended for the next two months.

Shoppers visiting Dudley Council car parks in Brierley Hill, Dudley, Halesowen and Sedgley have been able to enjoy up to two hours of free parking since April 24.

The trial was meant to end on July 2, but council bosses have decided to keep it going until the end of August.

People need to print and display a free parking ticket from the machines already in place. Normal charges will apply for those parking for longer than two hours and return is prohibited within three hours of leaving.

Nerf and laser tag offer to gamers

NERF and laser tag sessions are on offer in Halesowen.

Adrenaline-fuelled fun is on offer for thrill seekers at Carters Lane Baptist Church Hall on Saturday, July 29.

Revellers can immerse themselves in a range of fast-paced action-packed games in a unique live experience. The event, hosted by ActionBlast, has spaces available for a 40-minute session priced at £8.50.

Sessions run at 2pm and 3pm. Call 07515 494660 or email info@actionblastevents.com or visit www.facebook.com/actionblastevents

Chance to win a £100 voucher

RESIDENTS can win a £100 shopping voucher by taking part in a public consultation to find out how people feel about where they live.

Dudley Council is holding an eight-day roadshow, across 19 places in the borough, which will allow people to air their opinions, with council staff and community volunteers on hand. Everyone taking will be entered into a prize draw to win the voucher.

Results of the roadshow will be displayed at Dudley Town Hall on November 4. For a full list of locations, visit www.dudley.gov.uk.

Company joins Made in Britain campaign

BATHROOM products manufacturer Thomas Dudley has officially joined the Made in Britain campaign.

It hosted at Made in Britain - Marketing for Manufacturers workshop at its head office in Dudley.

Visitors were given a tour of the company's plastics warehouse, Shabnam Gangar, marketing communications officer, said there were more than 20 delegates from external companies.

Revamp bid for Trident Centre back on agenda

A LONG-awaited plan to revamp a shopping centre is back on the table, according to council chiefs.

An ambitious overhaul of the Trident Centre in Dudley was shelved earlier this year after a row between developer John Sykes, chairman of Atlantis Property, and council chiefs.

However, since leadership of the local authority switched from Labour to Conservative, Mr Sykes said he has had a successful meeting with new leader Patrick Harley - which could see a scheme to revamp the centre resurrected.

Councillor Harley described talks as 'very positive' and said new investment in the borough was 'vital'.

Previous plans included shops and leisure attractions, while the firm also wanted to create 185 apartments. Councillor Harley said: "I think it would be a mix of residential and retail outlets as has been mentioned before. It's vital that we engage with people like John Sykes and try to make Dudley an attractive place to invest."

"If we could develop the Trident Centre it would really provide a boost for that part of the town. It looks very positive."

Mr Sykes said: "We need to work in synergy as we both want the same things and the right thing for the area. It's looking better and we seem to be back on the right ground again."

Election shake-up on cards at council

A CONSULTATION has aunched on plans to shake up elections in Dudley - with all councillors elected once every four years.

Currently, the council elects in thirds with 24 seats out 72 up for grabs every year, with elected councillors sitting for four years.

But under new plans, if agreed by the council, all 72 seats would be voted for at the same time.

Chief executive Sarah Norman said: "It is important we listen to local people when considering these. There are many advantages and disadvantages to both systems."

The consultation is open until September 15 and the results will be put to a meeting of the full council in October.

Auditions are held

AUDITIONS are being held for the Pirates of Penzance, by Stourbridge Choir and Orchestra, on July 18 at Gigmill Church, Glebe Lane, Stourbridge from 7.30 pm. Apply via piano_man_27@hotmail.com

Lorry driver jailed for fatal crash



Mark Williams

A 'RECKLESS' lorry driver who killed a car driver in a 'completely avoidable' crash in slow-moving traffic has been jailed for four years.

Mark Williams, aged 45, of Tipton, crashed his lorry into the back of the car, causing the car to hit the back of the lorry in front of it on the A13 near Grays, Essex Police said.

The driver of the car, 23 year-old Foday Koroma from Basildon, died at the scene at around 9.30am on February 2.

Williams, of Park Lane West, admitted causing death by dangerous driving and was jailed for four years at Basildon Crown

Court, banned from driving for three years and will have to take an extended test.

Detective Sergeant Pete Harris, from the Essex Police Serious Collision Investigation Unit, said: "This was a completely avoidable crash which has led to the death of an innocent man. Mark Williams's recklessness has had devastating consequences."

"I cannot reiterate strongly enough how big the impact is on a family when we have to tell them a loved one has died because of someone else's actions."

"I hope the sentence provides some solace to Mr Koroma's family."

Earlier court hearings were told Williams

was on the A1012 exit slip road on the London-bound A13 when the Yodel lorry he was driving ploughed in to the back of Mr Koroma's red Peugeot 307 at about 9.30am. Williams was arrested at the scene on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

Tributes were paid to Mr Koroma, who lived in Basildon, and was on his way to the University of Greenwich in London at the time of the crash.

Pastor George Quaicoe, who leads the congregation of the Greater Grace Temple in Barking, the church at which Mr Koroma worshipped, said: "He was very humble, very quiet and very loving and caring."

Clean-up is removing mountain of rubbish

IT resembles a river of rubbish - more than 2,000 tons of waste creating a stinking blot on the landscape. Now the huge task of clearing the site has begun after a watchdog group stepped in.

The Environment Agency took enforcement action against the company responsible for the 2,000 tons of rubbish at Shaw Road, Dudley, and last week the permit holders and landowners had begun clearing the site, monitored by the Environment Agency (EA).

The job is expected to take weeks with the mass of rubbish being taken by trucks to legitimate waste sites.

Steve Rogers, environment officer for the Environment Agency said: "Waste on the site of Rowan Waste, Shaw Road, Dudley, has started to be cleared."

Meanwhile, a probe continues to find out just how the dump was allowed to get so out of control.

Mr Rogers added: "While our investigation into the depositing of the waste at the site is ongoing, we have been working with the permit holders and landowners to secure the safe and legal removal of waste at the site."

Safely

"We estimate the site contains 2,000 tonnes of waste; this waste is now being cleared and will be taken to landfill. We are monitoring and tracking the waste to make sure it is being disposed of safely."

"We take our role as a regulator seriously and we take enforcement action against anyone operating outside their permit or operating illegally."

The EA has repeated its appeal for information about mounds of waste that are causing a concern.

In March 2016, the agency took formal enforcement action against the operator Rowan Oak Waste Services, over its failure to reduce the amount of waste on the site and removed its right to operate as a result.

A revocation notice was served, which took effect in April last year and required the operator to clear the site by September 16, 2016.

If anyone has any concerns about a waste site, they can call the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60.



Eyesore - The huge pile of rubbish on land, off Shaw Road, Dudley, that is finally being removed

142-home plan at industrial site

INDUSTRIAL land which has been blighted by anti-social behaviour could be transformed and turned into homes.

An application has been lodged with Dudley Council for the overhaul of the site, off Darkhouse Lane, in Coseley. The developer, Clive Jessup, from Cannock, hopes to turn the currently der-

elict 13-acre site near Rosewood Primary School into a new housing estate of up to 142 homes.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley said if the scheme went ahead it would be 'a boost' to the local area.

A previous application in 2013, from Darkhouse Properties (Jersey) Ltd, for 108 properties, was

approved, but no development has taken place.

A design and planning statement submitted as part of the application states: "Despite the site being allocated as employment land it must be noted the site has remained vacant for some time now and is subject to anti-social behaviour problems."

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4 Random attacks on number nine bus passengers

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, July 6, 2017

A THUG who viciously attacked random bus passengers because he was 'having a bad day' has been locked up.

Tyrique Watson's victims were left injured and shocked by the unprovoked assaults in Stourbridge – all on the number nine bus, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. One passenger needed surgery for a broken nose. A teenager who went to another victim's aid ended up being struck and having clumps of her hair pulled out.

The court heard 19-year-old Watson, of Stepping Stones, Stourbridge, appeared 'emotionless' during the attacks on three women and a man which were caught on CCTV.

Judge Nicholas Webb sentenced Watson to four years in a Young Offenders Institution. The court heard all victims had been left too nervous to use public transport.

Ms Rachel Pennington, defending, said Watson could not explain his actions but was full of remorse. "He had been having a bad day, he lost his temper," she said. "What he did was out of character."

Watson admitted one charge of wounding and three of assault causing actual bodily harm.

Consultation starts on homes strategy

PEOPLE living in high-rise tower blocks in Dudley could be moved out into low-rise accommodation, under plans to build new houses on green belt land.

The council opened its consultation into the Black Country Core Strategy, which includes looking at home-building for the future. A series of roadshow consultation events will take place shortly.

Councillor Les Jones, cabinet member for housing, said: "If they are moved out into low-rise accommodation, low-rise buildings take up more space. We will need to look at different sites and land to build on."



Andy Weaver, Flora Bianco and Dave Norman of DK Running Cub



Robin Fearn, from Kidderminster, who works at East Park Academy in Wolverhampton, seen with son Oliver, aged 12, and wife Kay



James Thie from Cardiff wins the 5k race



Sophie Falshaw from Lye, receives her 5k winner's medal from the Mayor of Dudley



The runners set off in the sunshine on Sunday



Winner James Thie, with Stephen Pearson, right, from Dudley, second and Clark Woodhall, left, from Wednesbury who was

Streets ahead for superb race

AROUND 1,000 people donned their trainers to take to the streets for this year's Black Country Road Race.

It signalled the start of the Black Country Festival and was split into three different events.

There were 5k and 10k races together with a family fun run and walk, all which took place on Sunday.

Both races started and finished in

the centre of Halesowen and the winner of the 5K was James Thie from Cardiff while the first woman home was Sophie Falshaw.

Among the others who took part was Wolverhampton teacher Robin Fearn, aged 44, his wife Kay and their 12-year-old son Oliver.

Robin, who works at East Park Academy and lives in Kidderminster,

said: "We started running towards the end of last year and had been looking for an opportunity to do it for real. I did not know Halesowen had so many hills so it was nice to get to the end."

Dave Norman, aged 47, who works for an insurance company and lives in Penn, came second in his age group in the 10k with a time of 39

minutes. He took part with fellow Dudley Kingswinford running club members Andy Weaver, 56, from Wombourne and Flora Bianco of Kinver.

Dave said: "There is a lot of mileage on the clock. It was a tough course and enjoyable race. There was good support through the town and I was high fiving the kids as I went

by." This was the sixth year of the annual event which started as a fun run and is organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary club. It was the brainchild of one of their members, Alan Bowler, and has already raised over £100,000 for charity.

The 10k race was added in 2013 with the 5k appearing on the agenda for the first time this year.

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Firm in court over false registration

A HEATING firm that falsely claimed to be registered to two trade accreditation organisations has landed a court bill of more than £3,000.

Plumbzone (Dudley) Ltd, of Prospect Row, Dudley, and two directors admitted the offences at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court.

The court heard the company had been told by Dudley Council trading standards officers it was no longer NICEIC registered, but continued to display the logo on its website and vans. It also found the company's website and vans continued to display the Guild of Master Craftsmen logo after it ceased membership in 2013.

The court was told the false claims may have led customers to employ the company on the basis of the claimed accreditations. Plumbzone (Dudley) Ltd, and a former director Arshad Mohammed, pleaded guilty to two offences under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 in relation to the false claims.

Company director Mumtaz Ali Khan admitted three offences and was fined £750 with £491 costs and £30 victim surcharge.

Both Mohammed, and the company, were fined £500 with £491 costs and £30 surcharge.

HSE action over steel firm accident

A STEEL stockholders in Dudley is being prosecuted by the Health & Safety Executive after a man's legs were crushed during the delivery of steel coil to the company.

The victim was trapped by the metal while on the back of a lorry at an industrial unit on Deepdale Lane, Lower Gornal, on November 8.

It's carnival capers as towns enjoy festivities

THE sun shone over the Black Country for two annual carnivals.

Halesowen Carnival organisers reported entrance figures as high as 7,000. There were hundreds in attendance at Stourbridge Carnival, too.

From wrestling matches to dog shows – there was a whole range of activities and entertainment on the cards in Highfield Park on Saturday for the Halesowen event.

For the first time a food and drink festival was introduced. Festivities ran from midday to 8pm with live music throughout the day.

Councillor Stuart Henley, a member of the four-team organising committee, said: "It was excellent. Even better than we anticipated."

Preparations are already under way for next year and a number of traders and food stalls have already signed up.

Organisers are hoping more volunteers and sponsors will come forward ahead of the next event in order to make it even better. Call Stuart on 07967 142367 or email halesowencarnival@gmail.com

The following day, hundreds turned out to enjoy Stourbridge Carnival. The traditional Carnival Princess and Rosebud competition took place with a theme commemorating the event's 1980s heydays.

The High Street, Coventry Street and Market Street were filled with stalls, displays and a fun fair. Lower High Street hosted a classic car display. The afternoon saw local musicians, including Esther Turner, performing live on the outdoor stage.



The Cannon Dance Academy were giving performances at the Halesowen Carnival in Highfield Park



Darcy Farren at Halesowen



Ron Popple at Stourbridge Carnival



Stourbridge Princess Lily Perry

Tax rise to cover cost of social care

COUNCIL tax could increase by three per cent next year in Dudley to pay for adult social care.

The possible rise was discussed at a meeting of the council's cabinet last Thursday, when a review into the care strategy was discussed.

The idea was aired as part of a discussion on how the social care budget had been 'squeezed' over the last ten years, taking into account increases in the National Living Wage.

Councillor Les Jones, cabinet member for housing, said: "I can go back 10 or more years and see how we have squeezed the care home sector to keep costs down. The effect has been people living in inadequate care homes in the borough or having no option but to go elsewhere. We haven't made provision for the National Living Wage."

Tony Oakman, strategic director of people, said: "All care homes are regulated by the CQC and have to meet certain standards. But the council has met the requirements of the National Living Wage at £4 million and there have been several uplifts to provider rates which equates to something in the region of £300,000. We are doing everything we should be doing."

Meeting chairman Councillor Patrick Harley, said: "It is important for us to get it right."

Tribute act gives a kick up the 80s

FANS of 1980s music can flock to a tribute concert in Stourbridge on Saturday.

Kick up the 80s will perform hits from the likes of ABC, Go West and Wham! at the River Rooms in Mill Race Lane.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Driverless cars: But where is enjoyment?

WESTFIELD cars, one of the Black Country's best-kept secrets, has shown that the area still leads the way when it comes to cutting edge engineering and technology.

The Kingswinford-based company, best known for its 1950s-style road racers, has developed the world's first driverless sports car. And what a beautiful looking thing it is too, with its sleek, curvaceous body, wide-mouth grille and stacked double headlamps giving it all the allure of something Alfa Romeo or TVR might have produced in their heyday.

Yet there is also something that troubles me deeply about the idea of a self-driving sports car. Surely the whole point of a sports car is driver enjoyment, the intuitive sensuality of piloting the machine through country lanes, the sensation of feeling at one with the road. Why would anyone want a microchip have all the fun?

WHEN was the best time to live? The older generation always used to wax lyrical about the "good ol' days" usually referring to some time around the 1920s, "when you could leave your door open knowing that nobody would steal anything." Then there is the baby-boomer generation, waxing lyrical about the Summer of Love and the Swinging 60s.

They're both wrong, of course. The time when we really had things right was about some time towards the end of the 1980s. Say about 1987, when the economy was booming, we had pretty much all the technology we have today, but when there was still some sort of social fabric which seems to have disappeared over the past 30 years.

When we had video recorders, cassette players and comfortable homes and cars, but when catching burglars and shoplifters took precedence over minor speeding and parking offences, and when our town centres had shops in them.

It was also about the last time when television was worth watching. No Big Brother or X Factor, but comedies with jokes in them. Drama meant Minder, The Professionals or Bergerac. Come Dancing, minus the celebrities, was just a gentle interlude between the news and Question Time.

Oh, and yes, there was Blind Date. An excruciating low-rent dating show when an assortment of geeks and show-offs recited pre-scripted double entendres to get their 15 minutes of fame.

Why, out of all the great programmes that were made in the 1980s, did somebody think this was the one to revive?

Morrisons have the last laugh over Singh signage



When the Sainsbury's chain objected the shop was renamed Morrisingsh



Prince Harry says none of the young royals would choose to be king or queen



Jeremy Corbyn, who was seen hugging Grenfell survivors

Name change left a bitter taste for store

JEL Singh Nagra was forced to change the name of his shop in Tyneside after a legal complaint from Sainsbury's. Like a number of Sikh-owned shops, it was light-heartedly named Singhsbury's. When the supermarket chain objected, Jel renamed the shop Morrisingsh. Far from being annoyed, Morrisons says: "Mr Nagra and his customers obviously have good taste so we wish him well." Who comes out of this story best? Mr Nagra must be happy with his masses of free publicity. Morrisons is perceived as an organisation with a sense of humour. And Sainsbury's looks like a bunch of po-faced kill-joys.

PRINCE Harry says none of the young royals would become king or queen, given the choice, but would take the throne out of their sense of duty. Maybe all he wants is a right taken for granted by every other child in the kingdom. The right to dream of being a train driver, a fire-fighter or a football star. The right to choose your own life.

IT is not exactly hero to zero, but Theresa May's authority has been seriously depleted, not simply by her catastrophic decision to hold a snap general election, but also what was considered an inadequate, even cold, response to the Grenfell Tower disaster.

THE truth is, the Tories seemingly did all the wrong things after Grenfell, while Jeremy Corbyn, seen hugging survivors, did all the right ones.

THE Ulstermen have been bribed and the Scots

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



have elected a clutch of Conservative MPs to Westminster. Mrs May's Tory Government : O'Strong & McStable.

RESIDENTS who prevented a traveller convoy occupying a green outside their homes in north Wales claim the cops did little to support them. One woman declared: "The police called us in-citeful for coming out together." Strange term to use. Maybe the officer in question actually said "insightful," meaning perceptive or wise.

GOOGLE has been fined £2.1 billion by EU regulators for "artificially and illegally promoting its own price comparison service in searches." This allegedly "denied both its consumers real choice and rival firms the ability to compete on a level playing field." I hold no brief for Google but as a humble EU citizen with the nous to find bargains, it seems to me that Google used its own shop window to promote its own products. Just as every department store and village shop across the EU does.

THINGS you accumulate. Sorting out her jewellery (euphemism) box, Mrs Rhodes came across a small box containing Georgia's baby teeth. It is not unusual to keep your kids' little toosy-pigs. But Georgia was not our offspring. She

was the little black labrador we puppy-walked 25 years ago to prepare for her training as a guide dog. Long gone but loved for ever. And how sharp those tiny teeth were.

I HAD eye surgery this week. It was a blissful little drama, apart from the first act which involved three nurses wrestling to insert a painkilling pellet under my resisting eyelid. Next, the numbing eye drops, followed by what I believe the drug-abusing community calls seriously good **** from the anaesthetist. The op itself was not only painless but enjoyable, a dreamy 40 minutes as the eye surgeon did his stuff (which has always struck me as being like trying to pick up eels with chopsticks) and I descended into what looked like an ever-changing kaleidoscope of blue and white lights. It was like a day trip to the Sixties. I should have asked for the Sgt Pepper soundtrack.

I AM pleased, nay smug, to report that the reason the nurses struggled with the analgesic pellet is that my eyelids are unusually taut and youthful. Shame about the other bits.

DESPITE all the warnings and a £100 fine plus six points, you still see drivers using mobile phones – even while driving convertibles. But for sheer brass neck, can anyone rival the farmer's lad I spotted turning his tractor and trailer into a lane? He was driving one-handed with no hand signal, no number plate and no lights. While texting.

TALKING POINT

Bad blood until an inquiry is finally held

The biggest UK medical scandal since thalidomide is in danger of fading into the background again, eclipsed by Brexit and terrorism on the national agenda.

The tainted blood scandal saw haemophiliacs, many of them children, given blood products by the NHS in the 1970s and 80s that were contaminated with HIV and hepatitis C.

People with blood clotting disorders were given products sourced from convicts and 'skid row' donors in the United States, including drug addicts and prostitutes who were paid to donate blood.

For decades victims and their families were told that the infections that caused premature deaths and disabled many others were an unforeseeable and unfortunate consequence of treatment.

But then Andy Burnham MP, in his last speech in Parliament before leaving to become Mayor of Manchester, called for an inquiry after alleging a 'criminal cover-up on an industrial scale' in the NHS over the historic use of contaminated blood.

In a powerful speech the former Health Secretary said he had seen documents that showed victims had been used as 'guinea pigs' and subjected to 'slurs and smears' when they tried to get more information about their treatment.

Evidence has come to light that some senior medics knew that the products were harmful but continued to allow them to be used. And these products were not always being given in life-or-death operations, sometimes they were for minor procedures.

The victims and their families have long suspected a cover up and that successive Governments have dragged their feet, aware that a potential compensation bill is coming down as victims die. The victims have only received some small discretionary payments linked to personal hardships, not the major compensation that victims in several other countries have received. It seems that in the UK saving money is the top priority, rather than justice for the thousands of victims and their families. No body or organisation has ever admitted liability.

Quite rightly there has been a public inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster, in which 96 died, and it seems certain one will be held into the Grenfell Tower horror, where the death toll is likely to surpass 79. However, more than 2,000 people in the UK have died as a result of tainted blood. Thousands more have been living with poor health as a result. Surely they deserve a public inquiry too?

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Hand over leaving EU to the experts

IT'S time, in my opinion, to let Nigel Farage and our elected MEP's take charge of exiting the EU now.

June 23 should have been our last year as EU members if David Cameron or Theresa May had not delayed sending Article 50 immediately after the referendum. We have elected MEP's from all parties to represent us in the EU, of which Nigel Farage and other UKIP MEPs are still the party with the largest number of British MEPs. Surely it's time to hand over exiting the EU to Nigel and our other MEPs who are the real experts? On June 8 the

Address concerns over NHS

WITH the BMA chairman warning that the government is running the NHS on "nothing but fumes", the government must listen to the concerns of the medical profession

Across the West Midlands, health and social care services are at breaking point. Ministers have continually ignored pleas about the impact that underinvestment and poor workforce planning are having on the level of care being provided.

The NHS is in a vulnerable position, with waiting times rising, patient care suffering and staff working under difficult circumstances. The government must improve the NHS to the level that patients deserve before it goes even further in the wrong direction.

DR STEPHEN MILLAR
BMA West Midlands
Regional council chair

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Why walk dogs when the sun is blazing?

WHY do all people take dogs a walk in blazing hot sun? It's alright for people, they wear shoes, sandals, etc, dogs' paws are on the hot ground with nothing to protect them. We take our dog before 6am before the sun starts to rise and after midnight as sun is set.

I was in Wollaston on June 19 and somebody thought it was fine fun to leave a dog in a hot car while they went to put with no window open or no drink.

J ROBERTS
Stourbridge

Tough but they were happy days

I WOULD imagine that Mr Etheridge and I are about the same age as his letter regarding the non-existent 'golden days' rang out clear and true to me and bought back many memories.

When you look back at those days we did have it hard but that was how life was then and we knew no different, compare it to now and survival is so much easier. We learnt so much from those days like the fact that the world does not owe you a living, you get out of life what you are prepared to put in.

However it is only when we look back now, we realise that even though we worked longer and in some cases in conditions that would not be tolerated now, they were happy days.

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

£50,000 damage as driver careers into car dealership

AN out-of-control motorist smashed into a Kingswinford car dealership wrecking 10 vehicles and causing more than £50,000 worth of damage.

The vehicles for sale – which were mainly Vauxhall Mokka – were largely written off at T Wall Vauxhall, off the High Street, Pensnett.

The driver allegedly fled the scene following the incident on Sunday at around 4am. Sales manager Kevin Leaver said it had left a 'big impact' on the family-run business.

Police face a struggle to manage

WEST Midlands Police is struggling to cope with an unprecedented level of demand for its over-stretched services, says the force's assistant chief constable.

Marcus Beale said the force faced an unprecedented backlog of 2,000 calls last week, forcing officers and staff from back room roles to be redeployed on the frontline and in key support posts.

Mr Beale said: "We responded to the terror attacks in London and Manchester by ramping up our armed and unarmed police presence in key locations across the region, including shopping centres, transport hubs, entertainment venues and places of worship."

"Understandably, this combination of factors has impacted on our ability to attend all calls for service."

Mr Leaver, who has worked at the garage for the past 17 years, said: "They damaged up to 10 cars and I think the majority may be written off. I don't know how much it will cost but it's going to be well in excess of £50,000."

"The driver was travelling towards Kingswinford and presumably lost control, went through the barriers and hit one of our cars in the driveway."

"It then catapulted across the driveway and crashed into another one of our cars which careered into the rest."

"It has had a big impact on us."

Shocking

"It is concerning because we don't know how we will be claiming for it yet. It is an ongoing police investigation. It was just shocking really and not something you expect to happen."

West Midlands Police said a 28-year old man handed himself in and has been bailed pending further enquiries.

John Westwood, 43, from Kingswinford, had been passing by later that morning when he saw the cars in what he labelled as an 'horrific state'.

He pulled up and decided to film it on his phone. Mr Westwood then went on to post the video on a Facebook group page – where it has gone on to receive thousands of views.

And action . . . film puts region on the map



Grant Murphy, who is producing and starring in the film Brumville, with actor Dominic Thompson

"THE Black Country is overlooked when it comes to film – we need to put it on the map."

The words of film director Grant Murphy, who is behind a production being shot in Stourbridge and Birmingham.

Brumville has so far been filmed at the Arena night club in Stourbridge, the Holly Bush pub in Cradley Heath and a tunnel near Stourbridge Town railway station. It follows the lives of

three friends – Connor, Lee and Mikey – and their struggle with gangs and the law. The film will cost £27,000 to make, with Mr Murphy hoping to raise the cash through an online fundraising campaign.

So far, £3,000 has been put toward the project. Filming, which will also see crews at Steelhouse Lane Police Station, Birmingham, finishes in August. It is hoped the film will be released in December on DVD. It will

be available online and at Tesco and HMV. Mr Murphy, aged 25, an engineer at Rolls Royce in Birmingham, said: "The film's three characters represents people I have known while growing up."

"I wanted to make the film in the Black Country and on the region, because this area does not get enough coverage."

"It should not be overlooked but it is," the film-maker added.

Transient site could be found for travellers

A TEMPORARY travellers' site could be provided in Dudley in a bid to discourage illegal camps.

Dudley Council chiefs have been looking at suitable sites in the borough. Travellers set up camp on two playing fields last week, prompting a fresh row over how to deal with the problem.

Councillor Les Jones, Dudley's cabinet member for housing, said: "Myself and councillor Karen Shakespeare have been looking to see if there is a suitable transient site. One could help us tackle illegal traveller camps. It has to be something that we look at in the future."

Transient sites see travellers pay a fee to use them. The provision of such sites also bring in greater powers for councils to tackle the illegal camps which cause distress for nearby residents and often leave an authority or landowner with a huge clean up bill.

Travellers in around 40 caravans pitched up on Milking Bank last month, near to Milking Bank Primary School, before moving on to Grange Park.

In neighbouring Sandwell plans are also in the pipeline for a transient site. Sandwell brought in powers earlier this year that allows them to move on travellers from council-owned land within 24 hours.

Driver injured after hitting lamp post

A MAN was taken to hospital after a crash in Stourbridge.

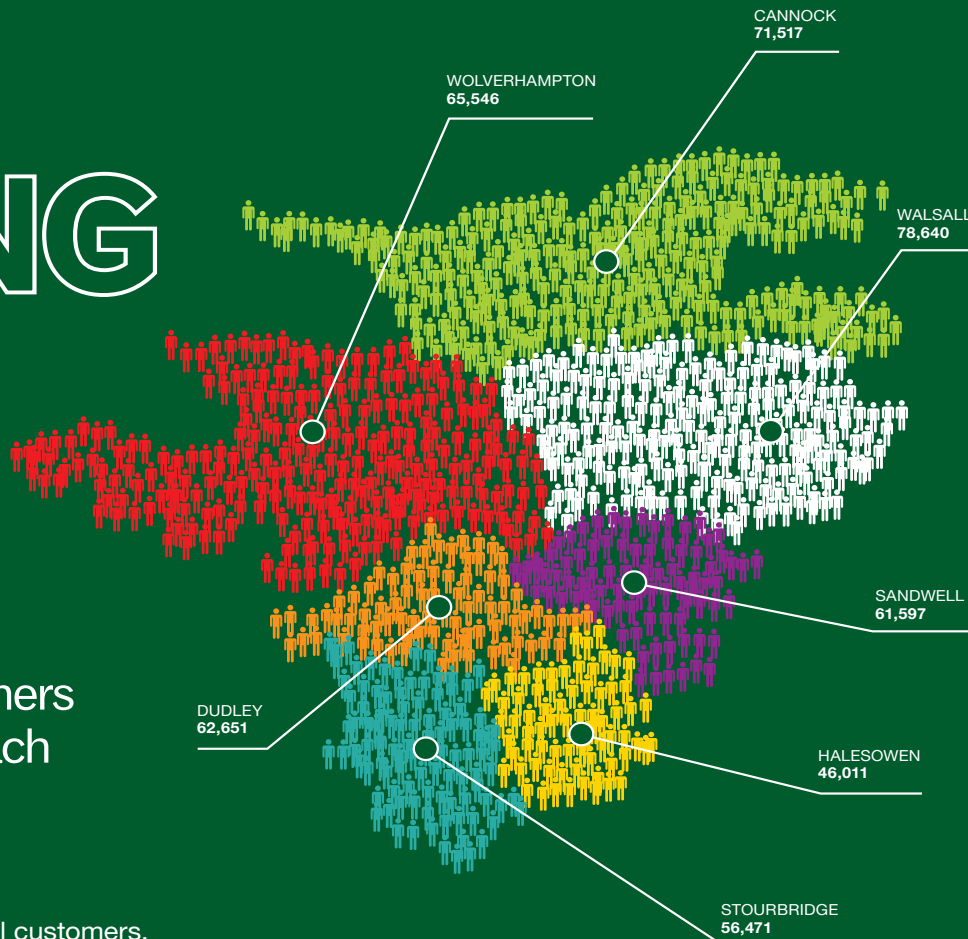
The 36-year-old sustained a suspected broken arm and head and chest injuries, and was taken to Russells Hall Hospital after hitting a lamp post in Worcester Lane, Pedmore, before 8pm on Saturday. He was alone in the Mazda.

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Mantique auction sparks a whole lot of interest

ALL 40 rare firemen's helmets went and a £4k locomotive nameplate capped the lot as more than £100,000 was spent at an auction targeted at men.

Internet bids came from as far away as New Zealand, the Middle East and America when 630 items went under the hammer at Fieldings Auctioneers in Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge on Saturday.

Around 200 people – some travelling from South Wales, the West Country and Norfolk – attended in person while 500 more registered to bid via the internet from around the world.

"It was a phenomenal success," said Mark Hannam, who handled the sale of 300 of the lots with the remainder being split between colleagues.

Leather

It was the firm's annual Mantiques auction, so called because it featured items most likely to appeal to males.

The fire service helmets – all from the 19th and 20th century – each fetched between £200 and £700, depending on the rarity and brigade they came from.

They were made from leather, brass or chrome with several coming from the fire service at the former Marsh and Baxter meat factory in Brierley Hill. There was even one from the Windsor Castle fire brigade.

A 450-strong collection of tampers, used to damp down the tobacco in a pipe, were all sold after being broken into 44 separate lots, with six strong sets fetching around £300.

One with a 'peep show' of an Edwardian lady getting undressed for a bath visible through a tiny hole in the top of the implement was sold for



Gloves signed by Muhammad Ali



Mark Hannam with a fire helmet lot



The locomotive nameplate that fetched the highest – £4,500

£150. A set of 20 silent movie posters was snapped up by a collector in America and 24 coins commemorating Royal events cost a bidder in the Middle East £700.

A medal awarded to Pte S Popple 2/24th foot who was wounded in the battle of Isandlwana during the Zulu wars on January 22 1879 topped £4,000 but the star of the show was

the nameplate of Sir Arthur Yorke, a Bulldog class Great Western steam locomotive built in 1906 and withdrawn in 1949. It went for £4,500.

A pair of signed Muhammad Ali gloves fetched £900. They were signed by the boxing great at a charity auction in Perry Barr in 1983 and were sold by Peter Plevy, 73, of Kinver, who had paid £500 for them.

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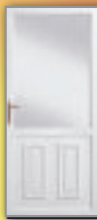
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The famous BBC test screen that displayed when shows ended



Champion John Newcombe and Wilhelm Bungert after the 1967 final



The 1967 Wimbledon final was the first event broadcast in colour



Scenes like this may still be common in some homes – some in the West Midlands

Colour TV? No, some still watch in black and white

COLOUR television has now turned 50 – but some people in the West Midlands are still watching in black and white.

Figures have been released to mark the milestone of the first colour transmission on the BBC.

TV Licensing says more than 8,000 homes across the UK still watch programmes in black and white.

The TV Licensing B&W Index shows large urban areas hold the majority of black and white TV licences, with 45 people in Wolverhampton, 22 in Walsall as well as a staggering 377 in Birmingham watching black and white transmissions.

One explanation could be cost, as a colour licence costs £147 and a black and white licence costs £49.50.

Mark Whitehouse, TV licensing spokesman for the West Midlands, said: "It is striking that in an era of HD TV and spectacular true-to-life pictures, there are

MEMORY LANE

By Jessica Labhart

still more than 8,000 viewers content to watch spectacular programmes like The Night Manager and Planet Earth in monochrome.

"Whether you watch in black and white on a 50-year-old TV set or in colour on a tablet, you need to be covered by a TV licence to watch or record programmes as they are broadcast.

"You also need to be covered by a TV licence to download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer, on any device."

While the figures reveal there may be life in the oldest TV equipment yet, BBC statistics indicate emerging technologies are changing the way many of us watch TV altogether.

Fewer than 500 families had a colour TV set in 1967 when Australian John Newcombe took the Wimbledon mens'

title by thrashing Wilhelm Bungert.

Comparatively, more than nine million people tuned in to watch Sir Andy Murray lift the title for a second time last year, beating Milos Raonic in straight sets.

BBC iPlayer recorded the highest unique browser reach on record, with an average of 19.9 million unique browsers weekly across June 2016.

The first colour transmission went out on July 1, 1967 on BBC Two.

The Wimbledon Tennis Championships marked the beginning of regular colour television in the UK, with David Attenborough, then controller of BBC Two, announcing the channel would initially broadcast in colour for around five hours a week.

Just a handful of colour sets were in use at the start of colour transmissions, but by 1968 most BBC Two programmes were in colour and by 1977, sales of colour TV licences had overtaken numbers of black and white licences.

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More than 30 cars halted in speed blitz

THIRTY two vehicles were stopped during a speeding crackdown run by police on a 'dangerous' road in Stourbridge.

One car was also seized for having no tax as police conducted a community speedwatch on Norton Road last Wednesday.

The drivers who were stopped were advised about the speed limits and were also shown a safety video.

The road has 30mph speed limit and that was reduced from 40mph in 2013 following a spate of accidents, including the death of an elderly woman in 2011.

Busy

Ward councillor Heather Rogers said: "It's a dangerous road and there's been quite a few accidents there in the past, so speeding is a problem.

"It's a very busy road, particularly in the evening.

"I'm very pleased police are out in force and hopefully they'll start to slow down."

Tax office worker in 'despicable' fraud



Rebecca Gray, 32, was given a suspended sentence

A TAX office worker acted 'despicably' by fraudulently claiming more than £56,000 in tax credits over seven years, a court heard.

Rebecca Gray, a customer services officer at the Dudley tax office, was in 'a unique position' to know that what she was doing was wrong, a judge told her.

Gray, aged 32, was spared a prison sentence after the court heard that she had lied when she claimed she had split from her partner and had moved into her grandfather's Wolverhampton home, making her eligible for a single parent's tax credit allowance.

The mother-of-four had also understated the amount of maternity pay she received, which then entitled her to more maternity credit, whilst overstating the child care cover she needed.

She joined the Dudley tax office in 2006 when she started making a joint claim with her partner for child tax credits, said Ms Lynette McClement, prosecuting.

Gray had alleged that her relationship with her partner broke down in July 2014, and she started claiming single parent's tax credits, when in fact she was still living with him in Lower Gornal.

Sacked

Her partner was not facing similar charges because the false claims were made in her name.

Gray, who was sacked from her job at the tax office, was arrested in March last year.

A check with her grandfather showed that she had not lived at his address for 11 years.

Gray had benefitted by £100 a week in maternity benefits and £275 a week in child care costs.

The overpayment between 2009 to 2016, came to a total of £56,344, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Gray, of Brookdale, Lower Gornal, pleaded guilty to four offences contravening the Tax Credit Act.

She was sentenced to two years jail suspended for two years and was also given a 12-month supervision order.

Recorder Nicholas Syfret, QC, told her: "You behaved despicably. You were in a unique position to know that what you were doing was wrong."

Derelict land is lined up for 140 homes under new proposal

INDUSTRIAL land in Coseley which has been blighted by anti-social behaviour will be transformed and turned into 140 homes, under proposals.

An application has been submitted to Dudley Council for the overhaul of the site, off Darkhouse Lane.

The developer hopes to turn the currently derelict 13-acre site near

Rosewood Primary School into a new housing estate of up to 142 homes.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley said he welcomed the outline planning proposals as a potential boost to the area if they get the go-ahead.

A previous application for the land was approved in 2013 but no development has taken place on the site.

The new plans have been submitted by Clive Jessup from Cannock.

The outline proposals would include a noise 'buffer' constructed to ward against noise pollution.

A design and planning statement submitted as part of the application says: "Despite the site being allocated as employment land, it is understood Dudley Council have expressed a willingness to consider the site's potential for residential development."

Youngster injured in attack near school

A PUPIL was attacked and left with minor injuries outside a Sedgley school last Thursday morning.

Police were called to High Arcal School, in High Arcal Drive, at 8.50am.

Headteacher Jo Bull said: "There was an incident off school grounds where one of our pupils was attacked. We carried out our standard safety procedures and informed police immediately. The pupil was left with minor injuries and the matter is now in the hands of the police."

Police spokesperson Kate Baker said: "Officers were called to reports of a disorder at High Arcal School at around 8:50am. Officers were at the school speaking to pupils and teachers to establish what happened."

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Annette Bradney and Jayne Blakeway from Friends of the Women



The parade through Cradley Heath



The parade in full swing through the streets



Annette Bradney, a chainmaker from Cradley



Trade Unions took part in the celebration



WASPI members Lynn Tranah and Barbara Thornhill

Remembering chainmakers

MPS past and present joined forces with officials from more than a dozen Trade Unions to ensure that heroines in the fight for women's rights are not forgotten at an annual event.

In March 1910 thousands of poorly-paid female chainmakers working in Cradley and Cradley Heath staged a 10-week strike that successfully

established the right to a minimum wage. One hundred and seven years later their victory was marked with an all-day event in Cradley Heath High Street which included a march with union banners proudly held aloft.

Hundreds of people thronged the High Street which offered fun on fairground rides and serious conversation in speeches and debate delivered close to the 40 market stalls that lined the road. The annual Women

Chainmakers' Festival drew in the crowds. It is now linked with the Black Country Festival.

It was led by the County Durham Riverside Band to nearby Mary Macarthur Park, named after the woman who organised the fund that stopped the striking chainmakers from being starved into submission.

Among the marchers was Annette Bradney, the only resident chainmaker now working in Cradley Heath. She said it was vital that the

annual event, being staged for the 12th year and recognised as the largest celebration in Britain of women's political history, continued so that people did not forget the hard times others had endured to provide better lives for those today.

Former Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP Sylvia Heal, patron of the festival, said: "The women chainmakers were almost on the periphery of history until this festival started to ensure they were remembered

and continued to inspire future generations."

Rob Marris, the recently-retired MP for Wolverhampton South East said: "It is a great pleasure to be here at a celebration of such an important piece of working class history."

Historian Dr Brian Dakin said: "Children of today must be reminded that they would not have what they enjoy today had it not been for people like the women chainmakers standing up for their rights."

Teenage boys in line for top citizen award

TWO Dudley teenagers who helped emergency services track down a missing person have been nominated for an award.

Louis Price and Jack Goodman, from Dudley, have been shortlisted for an honour at the West Midlands Outstanding Citizens' Awards.

They were nominated for the 'outstanding young citizen award'.

Last September, the then 13-year-old friends assisted police and ambulance services in locating a high-risk missing person in Wrens Nest Nature Reserve. The missing person was 15, pregnant and believed to be suicidal.

Louis and Jack guided police officers to the location of the missing person and – as daylight was drawing in – assisted ambulance services in navigating the woodland to locate the missing person, who was found to be very distressed and in need of medical attention.

The teenagers, put up for the award by West Midlands Police, showed maturity beyond their years recognising someone in distress and supporting the emergency services to be able to do their job.

PCSO Faye Cartwright of Dudley Police said: "Their actions were greatly appreciated and are worthy of recognition."

In a spin as leisure bikes to be replaced

VISITORS to a leisure centre will be in a spin when the popular bikes are replaced.

The static bikes are used in spinning sessions, at Halesowen Leisure Centre.

They were installed seven years ago with grant assistance from Public Health and West Midlands Police but the popularity of the classes means the bikes have been subject to heavy use and are now near the end of their useful life.

The centre is investing £5,000 in 11 bikes, 10 for class members, one for the instructor.

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Judge says veteran bus driver unfairly sacked for one mistake

A VETERAN bus driver who was sacked for running a red light in Dudley has won an unfair dismissal claim against his former bosses.

Abdul Jabbar, 59, of Dudley, was sacked by National Express West Midlands in October 2015 after CCTV footage captured him driving through the light in King Street.

But he sued, claiming the dismissal was over the top for one mistake in an unblemished career behind the wheel.

Now, after a hearing before an employment tribunal, Judge Glyn Lloyd has ruled the sacking was "unfair" and that Mr Jabbar is entitled to a com-

pensation payout. "The claimant is a bus driver of exemplary record," said the judge in his ruling, which was delayed at the end of the tribunal hearing in April.

"He has worked for the respondent without any disciplinary taint for some 37 years. He has been free of any accident or driving penalty for some 32 years.

Unpredictable

"What he did was - and we accept it was - a five-second momentary lapse of concentration on his part by a driver

who sits in the cab facing the unpredictable environment of busy city roads eight to ten hours each day.

"Considering the totality of the evidence, we find that his summary dismissal in those circumstances was disproportionate."

The tribunal heard Mr Jabbar had claimed his sacking was an attempt by his employer to get an expensive older employee off its books.

The case will return to the employment tribunal next month for an assessment of Mr Jabbar's damages, unless an agreement can be reached out of court.

Predator sent to jail for grooming girl, 13

A MAN who groomed a schoolgirl over the internet by pretending to be a 15-year-old boy has been jailed.

Paul Hawker encouraged the 13-year-old to set up a secret online file where they could share private messages and photos, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 55-year-old, of Woodsetton, also created a second fake identity, pretending to be the boy's 17-year-old sister 'to keep the fantasy going' after she 'went quiet on him', said Ms Sati Ruck, prosecuting.

He was found out after the victim's parents took her iPad as a joke and were suspicious about what they felt was an over-reaction by her.

Hawker told the girl how to download instant messenger app Kik so they could chat exclusively without others seeing the content, the court was told. He engaged her in general chat for a couple of days before asking her for photos of herself and, at bed-times, talking about 'kissing and cuddling'.

Messages

Hawker also enticed her to perform a sex act, explaining step by step through internet messages what she should do, telling her not to be shy and to send naked photos of herself, although this did not happen.

Hawker had previously been sentenced to four months in prison for four offences of taking indecent photographs and two of gross indecency with an under-age child between 1998 and 99. He pleaded guilty to inciting a child to engage in sexual activity. He was jailed for three years and four months and made the subject of a sexual harm prevention order.

Defending, Mr Stephen Hamblett said Hawker, of Parkes Hall Road, had no intention of meeting the girl and that he had mental health issues. "In my mind only an immediate custodial sentence can be passed," said Recorder Nicholas Syfret, QC.

Festival to boost business



Chamber chief executive **Corin Crane**, left, **Andy Cox** and **Ralph Findlay**, right, at the launch of the Black Country Business Festival

MORE than 100 exhibitions, trade shows and conferences will feature at the new Black Country Business Festival next spring.

These will be held across Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton from April 23 to May 4 in a free event showcasing industry of all kinds.

The festival is intended to be a platform to bring in investment and stimulate economic growth and was

launched at Wolverhampton's Light House Media Centre.

Black Country Chamber of Commerce chief executive **Corin Crane** said: "This is a really big day - the start of a big journey for us."

From July 17, businesses and organisations can start making applications to run events at www.blackcountrybusinessfestival.com or get involved as sponsors, in promoting and providing venues.

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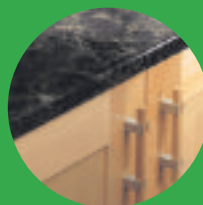
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VOTE YES✓ TO IMPROVE HALESOWEN!

The Halesowen Business Improvement District (BID), which is currently in the public voting stage, will breathe new life into Halesowen Town Centre and the surrounding areas and trading estates.

Set up to support existing traders, and entice new trade, the BID will undertake a comprehensive marketing, communications and events strategy, with the view to make business boom.

How will it help you?

- Marketing support for businesses
- Workshops in legal, accounting, social media and more to enhance vital business skills
- Creation of a BID magazine, in which all businesses will feature on a rotation, displaying offers and news
- Clean up the streets – such as, graffiti removal and vinyl empty shops
- Safety – installation of more CCTV to ensure safety and deter criminals
- Creation of a Business Growth Hub and Business Networking Group
- Events - Bring new events into Halesowen, with a view to double the events held, and thus increase footfall
- Preferential Partners – A Procurement Hub will be created that will contain details of companies where businesses within the BID area can benefit from preferential rates for supplies that will be negotiated by the BID Company.
- Parking – The BID have already been instrumental in the recent free parking trial, and are delighted to report that the free parking has been extended. The BID will work towards securing permanent free parking.
- Fulltime BID Ambassadors will be a permanent fixture for Halesowen; a presence who will be in regular 1-2-1 contact with each and every trader, taking on board suggestions and helping in any way that they can. These ambassadors will also have close links

with security services, police, and the council, which will allow them immediate responses.

- Your Voice – The BID ultimately works to give traders a voice, and have a say in how, where and when the funding should be allocated

The Halesowen BID are delighted to have had a very positive response from traders, and are hoping to secure a majority 'YES' vote when voting closes on 12th July.



Local Companies Call For Change!

Businesses across Halesowen are calling for traders and business owners to rally behind the BID in an effort to secure much needed investment into the area.

David Dancer, of Dancers Halesowen has pledged his vote in favour of the BID.

David said: "The BID can bring Halesowen's businesses together, we can create a network that can help businesses old and new not just survive, but thrive."

The BID's promise of securing a brighter future for local business includes the surrounding trading estates and industrial parks outside of the town centre. Dean Ford, of Full Range Print, has stated he will be voting yes as part of his confidence in the BID's proposal.

Dean said: "We have an opportunity, as a region, to invest a considerable amount of money in developing Halesowen. This investment will benefit all businesses, not just those located in the town centre".

Without a positive YES vote, nothing will change...

As businesses continue to shift away from the High Street and onto the purpose built shopping centres and e-commerce sites it is becoming increasingly difficult to survive and many once bustling areas are now sadly nothing more than ghost towns.

In fact research shows that retailers on the high street have not yet managed to deliver

a "positive story" for 2016, it therefore leaves no other option than to take action to reverse these trends or simply face decline and then failure.

With the average business paying only 93p per week you simply have to ask yourself if your company could achieve everything that is set out in this Business Plan with the same weekly budget. There is no doubt that the answer is no. It is important to understand that DMBC will not be funding these projects, the only way that these positive steps will be taken is if you vote YES.

How can I Vote?

From 14th June 2017 to 4.00 p.m. on 12th July 2017 you will be able to cast your vote in a formal ballot which will be conducted by the Electoral Reform Society and will be a postal ballot.

All defined ratepayers will be entitled to one vote per hereditament (item of property), if you occupy more than one hereditament you will receive additional ballot papers.

Any ratepayers that have been exempt from paying the BID levy will not be eligible to vote. You will be able to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf if required.



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■ Your voice for **Halesowen**

■ £600,000 of investment

■ Transform **our** town

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All at sea on canal trip



Kevin Yarwood, Amanda Yarwood and Andy Cooper at Anglo Welsh

"IT'S an experience like no other," says Kevin Yarwood of Anglo Welsh.

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Yes, there's nothing quite like messing about on the water. Or in our case bumbling.

From Silsden in West Yorkshire to Monkton Combe in Somerset and Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, Anglo Welsh has for hire more than 160 boats, available for just a day, or for longer periods of time, enabling people to enjoy the

Report by Mark Shipp

country at their leisure. For novices such as ourselves, Anglo Welsh help choose a route to suit and show the ropes.

Kevin operates from the Great Haywood base, which he has turned into a mini family affair, alongside his wife, son, sister and brother. This, together with more than 25 years of experience, allows Kevin to offer a more personal service.

He took us on the first stage of our journey, showing us around the boat and then giving us our instructions. On board 'Abi' - all day boats are named after the staff members, their

partners or children - we were taken along the Trent & Mersey to the first of the locks along the route.

Tuition was given and other relevant instructions passed on. After the safe handover, we were left to fend for ourselves.

Nautical

There were just two of us and it soon became apparent that if there was a driving test for narrowboats we would have failed.

But what could possibly go wrong? I am a man after all. And with a nautical surname. Surely I could do it, especially as we only trav-

elled at four miles an hour. The reality was much different. Cruising? Not really. All at sea would be a more apt description.

While other more seasoned boaters were effortlessly passing it was not so easy for us. In fact, our navigational skills, or rather the lack of them, had us turning the air bluer than the boat we were in.

Surroundings were tranquil, though, and we passed the back of Shugborough, heading towards Colwich and then the Wolsley Bridge area.

It was pleasant to moor up and have a bite to eat and watch the experts pass on their way.



Narrowboats moored up along the stretch



The picturesque scene at the lock near Colwich



Captain of the Shipp - but Mark didn't find it so easy at the tiller

One could not wish to meet a friendlier bunch than the boating fraternity, with a cheery wave as they passed and help as we hit trouble. But Kevin's correct - there really is nothing like it. Get it right and you will have the best of days, weekends or weeks you could ever imagine. From Great Haywood, one could cruise along the Trent & Mersey or indeed the Staffordshire & Worcestershire canals.

Day hire starts at £99 with a limit of 10 per boat, handy for taking it in turns at the helm. There are kitchen facilities on board and wi-fi on the holiday fleet. Visit www.anglowelsh.co.uk or call 01889 881711.

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Teenage boy stabbed victim twice outside snooker club

More than 50 addresses are on blacklist

DOZENS of homes in the Black Country and Staffordshire are blacklisted by West Midlands Ambulance Service over paramedics' safety fears.

Police escorts are required for ambulance staff visiting 52 addresses in the West Midlands which have been flagged up as 'dangerous places'. They include properties in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley, Wyre Forest and Staffordshire.

The addresses become blacklisted on the back of reports by paramedics from previous visits. Reasons range from dangerous dogs, attacks on staff and verbal abuse.

Letters are written to the addresses, where possible, and they are reviewed regularly by ambulance bosses.

The number of blacklisted addresses has fallen from 79 in 2015 but in 2011 there were just 11. The figures for attacks on ambulance staff continue to rise.

Spokesman Murray McGregor said: "It is about ensuring the safety of our staff."

Comic Jo tops bill at laughter night



Kum-n-avaloff with Brummie comedian Jo Enright

BRUMMIE stand-up and comic actress Jo Enright is set to headline tonight's (Thursday's) Kum-n-avaloff comedy night at Stourbridge Town Hall.

Jo appeared alongside Peter Kay in Phoenix Nights, with Steve Coogan in I'm Alan Partridge and played the female lead in Life's Too Short, directed by Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant.

Most recently, she received rave reviews for her part of Angela in three series of ITV's The Job Lot, set in a West Midlands job centre.

Character

Jo will be joined at the monthly comedy night by host Dan Smith, fast-rising Georgie comedian Rahul Kohli and Wolverhampton character comic Jack Kirwan.

Tickets are £8 plus booking fee and the ticket price includes curry and rice (vegetarian option available), which will be served during the interval.

Stourbridge's Kum-n-avaloff comedy nights have been running since 2003 and take place on the first Thursday of every month.

See boroughhalls.co.uk or call (01384) 812812.

Primary school headteacher on award shortlist

A PRIMARY school headteacher has been praised by police for her work improving relations between officers and the community.

Emma Burnell, headteacher at Tividale Primary, has been nominated for the West Midlands Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award.

Mrs Burnell created a programme to tackle negative perceptions about policing in the community.

The neighbourhood police team have reported posi-

tive changes in community relations as a result. Mrs Burnell said: "I'm surprised and slightly humbled to be nominated. But I feel privileged to be representing the work of everyone involved."

"We are all working in partnership to do our job, which is ultimately to help ensure children succeed and progress academically."

The awards ceremony is taking place today (Thursday) at Edgbaston Cricket Ground.

A 17-year-old youth stabbed a man twice outside a snooker club but has been spared any time behind bars.

Trouble flared after the 44-year-old victim allegedly threw beer and possibly a bottle out of an upstairs window at a group of teenagers, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

There was an exchange of words and the man rushed out of the Hot Shot Snooker Club in High Street, Tipton to confront the 17-year-old on January 20, said Miss Fiona Cortese, prosecuting.

The older man supposedly tried to throw a punch but missed before an onlooker warned him: 'He has got a knife,' the court

Report by John Scott

was told. Miss Cortese added: "The defendant then removed the knife and stabbed the man in the left side of the stomach."

He was also cut on the inside of a forearm. The incident was partially captured on CCTV. The victim was taken to hospital where he was kept under observation overnight after having 11 stitches in the two wounds.

His attacker was so frightened by what had happened that he did not dare go home until the next morning when he admitted to his mother what he had done and she alerted police.

He claimed to have been carrying a knife for a 'few weeks' for his own protection.

Miss Seamran Sidhu, defending, said: "His friend was attacked with a knife and he foolishly decided to arm himself."

The youth, who cannot be identified, admitted wounding with intent and was given a two year youth rehabilitation order with a six month intensive supervision element and three month night time curfew.

Recorder Nicholas Syfret QC said: "I am bound to be critical of the victim who was behaving with a degree of aggression which was not appropriate in the circumstances."

"You had a knife and used it to cause serious injury but I am quite satisfied you immediately regretted this. It seems to me that you are a decent and intelligent young man and this was an aberration."

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Animals that are going wild in the salesroom

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



IN recent years we have seen a relative slump in the sale of animals . . . not live ones, obviously, but the model varieties.

However, as with everything in the antiques business, the creatures appear to be popular once again – or at least those with particular appeal.

Bronzes have become massively popular, buyers are snapping up everything from bulldogs to birds, with wild animals such as lions and stags being much sought after (in our adjoining antiques centre, we have literally had buyers queueing up to buy a pair of stags in the past couple of days).

Nice bronzes can fetch some excellent prices in the saleroom so be prepared to haggle if you've set your heart on one.

Having said that, they are lovely pieces and will prove money well spent, especially if this buying trend continues and your bronzes become a sound investment.

China animal models, such as those made by Beswick, used to be a buyers' favourite but became less so over the past five years or so – but now certain animals are almost certain to find a new home at auction.

Beswick horses (especially 'names' like Arkle and Red Rum) sell for good prices, as do farm animals such as cows, sheep, bulls and pigs.



The wild animals including rabbits and foxes produced by Beswick also do well, as do huntsmen and hounds.

Wemyss animals very collectable, we've seen some really lovely pigs, rabbits and cats in the saleroom.

The cute little Whimsie creatures have in the past been popular but at present only the Disney characters are selling well.

And back to the farm animal theme, look out for 'cow creamers', these have always been snapped up for both practical use and display purposes.

As with all vintage pieces, check for any signs of damage before you buy your new 'pet'!

- Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.
- The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom in Bridgnorth on Tuesday, August 1. Viewing will be during the weekend and on Monday and also from 10am on auction day. New sale bidders are advised to attend the saleroom early on auction day to register and be allocated a bidding number

Diverse town centre shops are well worth a visit



Cooke & Thomas – more than flowers

WE have a studio in Shrewsbury and have recently had an onsite launch to showcase all the businesses in our building.

It has made me think how interesting and diverse the range of businesses in the area are.

We no longer have high streets filled with the butcher, baker, grocer and ironmonger. Today every high street includes a similar mix of stores such as Wilkinsons, New Look, B&M, Argos, Boots and WH Smiths but look a little closer to find some of the more interesting shops.

You may need to explore as, with rents so high they may be in side roads and on small industrial estates.

In Market Drayton we have some wonderful shops, Tuesdays Fine Confectionary is a must for the chocolate lover, Cooke & Thomas sell so much more than flowers, Gallys offer specialist merchandise and gifts, Temptations offer inspirational jewellery, The Sewing Box kits out the creatives.

Something Old, Something New is great for gifts, Allsorts' stock changes weekly and is always worth a visit, In Your Face sorts all your

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



printing requirements and we have some amazing hair and beauty shops, key cutting and shoe repairs, card shops, pubs and cafes.

Bloomingtails, Caroles Stitches, Craft Revolution, Sweets and Treats to name but a few of the more interesting retailers.

Today the supermarkets sell so much more than the regular groceries and are our first port of call for almost any requirement.

Unique

It has helped to devastate our high streets, along with both out of town and online shopping.

The smaller businesses have to offer unique selling points and amazing customer service to ensure the customers keep coming back and they need to be experts in social media marketing.

I personally love small independent shops



Showering in water that is too hot can dry the scalp



Pat hair dry instead of using towel vigorously

Do you know how to wash your hair properly?



Hair can't 'wash itself' if you leave it

A LOT of us have a hair-washing schedule to make sure our hair looks good on the right days, while keeping the amount of time we actually have to spend washing it to a minimum.

But how often should you actually wash your hair? And what happens to your hair after it's been assaulted with shampoo? It's high time the experts weighed in.

Here, consultant trichologist Stephen Carson MIT, and Lisa Gilbey MIT, administrative trichologist to the Institute of Trichologists, let us in on a few secrets...

1. You don't need to wash your hair as often as you think

No doubt some of your friends insist on washing their hair every day, whereas others can get by with just once a week. Which end of the spectrum is right? Well, there's no general rule, as everyone's hair is different. Stephen says: "Those with fine, oily hair will need to wash around three to five times a week. Those with normal hair that feels slightly oily after four to five days should aim to wash around three, and people with dry scalps should shampoo every six to seven days."

Lisa agrees with Stephen, saying the frequency depends on your scalp type and how much physical activity you do.

2. Environmental factors and how much you exercise make a difference Everything from where you live to the

shampoo you use can affect how often you should wash your hair. Stephen notes you need to be particularly careful when choosing your products. He says: "For example, moisturising shampoo will not have enough cleansing properties for oily hair, which will make the hair lank and need washing more often. If you live and work in a city centre, pollution, dust and grime will mean your hair needs washing more than if you live in an area of cleaner air." And as any regular gym-goers know, frequent exercise also means that you need to wash your hair more often.

3. No, hair can't 'wash itself' if you leave it long enough

Ah yes, the age old myth that if you just don't wash your hair, it'll start 'self-cleaning'. It's a tale that most wish is true, but few have actually been brave enough to test out. Well, now the professionals have spoken. Lisa says that you shouldn't waste your time hoping your hair will eventually self clean, because it's not going to happen. "Sebum is the skin's antibacterial layer and has no cleansing properties in," she says. "It can be unhygienic."

4. Washing too often dries it out and makes coloured hair fade

Washing your hair too regularly runs the risk of drying it out, especially if you don't use conditioner. Stephen says: "You may also find your scalp getting dryer and possi-

bly itchy." You need to be particularly wary of this if you've had it coloured, as it will dry out more quickly. Lisa adds that using shampoo which doesn't strip out the natural oils, along with limiting how much heat is applied to the hair when styling, can help.

5. Pat hair dry instead of rubbing it with a towel

Washing hair is such a dull part of your life. However, this means that many people go on autopilot and therefore make some basic errors in their regular routine. Lisa says: "Women often use the wrong shampoo for their hair type, apply conditioner to the scalp, and rub the hair with the towel as opposed to patting it dry – this can charge the hair electrostatically, making it flyaway."

6. Showering in water that's too hot is a mistake

For Stephen, there are a whole host of simple mistakes we make when washing our hair. He says: "Common errors include using water that's too hot, which has a drying effect on the scalp, not rinsing hair thoroughly enough (which can cause a dull appearance due to debris left on the cuticle), and rubbing the hair too vigorously with a towel afterwards."

Instead, avoid damaging the cuticle by blotting your hair gently dry.

7. Brush your hair before washing it

If you've got long hair, brush it first. Also, don't 'lather up' all your hair on top of your head like a shampoo crown. "Instead, keep the foam close to the roots and then let the lather run through the hair as you rinse."

Open event to entice members

Wollaston E TWG

THE May meeting took the form of an open evening when friends and non-members were invited to join for light refreshments, and enjoy a pleasant evening gaining a brief insight into the aims of the guild.

Members from the Federation and neighbouring guilds were also invited, with entertainment from the group Gloriana, who got as many people as possible to join in the medieval dances.

Gloriana were dressed in very rich colourful gowns from various periods, although the sole male member looked a little uncomfortable at times in his breeches and tights!

After enjoying refreshments, members and visitors were invited to buy cakes, posies and plants from the laden table. There was also a display of items made and painted by the tea and talents group, photographs of the ambling group and local paper headlines.

It was an enjoyable, well attended evening, to hopefully entice new members.

The annual dinner at Hagley Golf & Country Club, was attended by approximately 30 members. The evening was most convivial with good food and plenty of chatting and laughing. Thanks go to Sue Ward, the organiser.

Potential new members are welcome at meetings, held at St James' Church Hall, Wollaston, on the second Tuesday of the month.

Fitting testimony to the 'Salt King'



Lance Cartwright, from Amblecote History Society, as Salt King John Corbett

AMBLECOTE History Society thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful day at a picnic in the magnificent grounds of the Chateau Impney to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth in Brierley Hill of John Corbett.

A large attendance enjoyed the many display stands and free musical entertainment.

The Amblecote History Society display stand, comprising a collection of quality photographic material and historical narrative about the life and times of John Corbett in Amblecote and the surrounding area was designed and produced after much effort, research and presentation by Helen Cook.

It looked magnificent and contained plentiful, interesting historical information which attracted a lot of attention with positive comments from the public and indeed from Corbett family relatives themselves, some of whom had flown in from the USA.

The birthday anniversary was also marked at midday by a synchronised peal of bells from Amblecote Holy Trinity and Saint Michael's Brierley Hill with local churches in the Droitwich area.

The "Salt King 200" project was the biggest Amblecote History Society have been involved in and proved to be a justified testimony to a man who did so much in our area to benefit the community.

Amblecote History Society

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The "Salt King 200" project was the biggest Amblecote History Society have been involved in and proved to be a justified testimony to a man who did so much in our area to benefit the community.

Warm welcome to newcomers

THE next meeting will be held on Saturday (July 8) at 2.15pm in the United Reform Church Hall, Trinity Road, Dudley.

The group would like new

Dudley Widows & Friends Circle

members, who would be made very welcome to join the small friendly set-up.

For more information call 01902 881097 and 01902 676997.

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Now is the perfect time to have a herb garden



Herbs can make pretty garden displays
ONE of the simplest starter ideas for any one new to gardening is to create an herb garden – perfect for novice planters and loved by cooks everywhere.

From sage to thyme, rosemary to clipped bay and flowering chives, you can combine a variety of herbs in one space that will produce long-lasting displays as well as regular pickings for the kitchen.

If you don't have much or any outside space then think about keeping a few pots of herbs on your balcony or windowsill – easy to reach to and there's no rushing out to take cuttings in the pouring rain when you are cooking your favourite dish!

There are so many herbs to choose from, but the top five classic favourites are...

MINT

Really easy to grow and it will cope with shady parts of the garden as well as full sun, but you need to keep it well watered and feed it.

If you pick regularly it will grow bushy and give you leaves from April to November. Whenever it begins to look straggly, repot into fresh compost.

CHIVES

Great in salads or as a soup garnish, they have lovely bee-friendly flowers and do well in partial sun. They like damp soil, so make sure they don't dry out. You can plant them from seed or pot a growing plant.

SAGE

Its velvety leaves and small, purple flowers look spectacular and it requires very little maintenance over the years.

It thrives in dry conditions so avoid watering it too much.

Sage loses some of its flavour after about three years, but you can take cuttings and grow new, aromatic plants.

BAY

Bays are both practical and ornamental hardy evergreen trees with aromatic leaves and small yellow flowers in spring.

They can grow to 40ft (12m) high but can be kept small by growing in a pot and pruning.

Keep them in a sheltered area in full or partial sun. They have very shallow root systems so in dry conditions you will need to water them, but other than that they are very low maintenance.

ROSEMARY

An evergreen, perennial hardy shrub, it has aromatic leaves and small purple or white flowers in late spring.

It thrives in good soil in full sun and needs minimal pruning or attention throughout the growing season.

You can leave rosemary in a container for several years before repotting and it can grow to a height of about 3ft (1m).

These simple tips from the Royal Horticultural Society on how to plant herbs in a container should guarantee success and hassle free growing:

- Choose containers that give herbs a deep root run where they can be left undisturbed.

- Use a gritty, well-drained compost

- Keep the compost moist, but never soggy and use a balanced fertiliser to encourage leafy growth

As many herbs have Mediterranean origins they like being in the sun, which means they really come into their own during the summer months.

It's perfect timing for bringing an aromatic flavour to outdoor cooking or a zing to seasonal salads.

Sara Milne – The Potted Garden

Strawberries of all kinds – it must be Wimbledon

YES Wimbledon season is upon us already! And what does that mean? Strawberries, strawberries, strawberries...

Your strawberry wish is Lubera's command...

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STRAWBERRY FRUTUM BELLEURE

Maturity: Early to very early

Fruits: Beautifully shaped, medium red to dark red, completely red when fully ripe

Taste: Early strawberry varieties have a fundamental problem: they often lack sugar. This new variety now has so much sugar when fully ripe that some sourness can be present. And that results in a fruity overall impression.

Yield: High, concentrated, strong harvest, which is already finished when medium-maturing varieties or late-maturing varieties start to be harvested. Excellent yield in the second year after planting.

Growth: Rather strong growth with good formation of runners; good leaf health after the harvest until autumn.

STRAWBERRY FRUTUM BONNEURE

Maturity: Mid-June to early July

Fruits: Large to very large fruits, beautifully coloured

Flavour/aroma: Fruity strawberry aroma; the fruits should be really ripe, which means that only the darkest fruits should be harvested; the fruits then develop a broad, sustained sweetness; yet they are also juicy and almost crunchy when bitten into.

Growth: Large, healthy shrubs. Can also be used as a low, border hedge for an herb bed.



There are so many varieties of strawberries this time of year

Roses create brilliant blooms and a magical atmosphere

Report by Sharon Walters

SENSUOUS roses confirm the presence of early summer as the variation in fragrance and the brilliance of their blooms create a magical atmosphere in the garden.

Roses contribute scent, form and colour and can easily be incorporated into any garden scheme.

In this article, Heather Evans, assistant manager of Love Plants, Shrewsbury, takes a look at some of the many varieties to choose from.

The English shrub rose is a comparatively recent introduction and includes many which have rapidly established themselves as firm favourites and are widely grown.

Old shrub roses, such as Gallica, Damask, Alba, Centifolia and Moss, are the roses of history, the forerunners of today's garden shrub roses.

Richly scented with magnificent blooms and lax growth, they give the garden an air of maturity.

For sheer brilliance of bloom, innovative colour and massed display, the modern bush rose will satisfy all such demands and more.

Included in this group are Hybrid Teas, the most popular of all garden roses, multi-flowered Floribundas and an extensive range of miniature and patio roses, many ideal for small gardens or pots.

Cascading from mature trees, draping arches and pergolas, or clothing ancient walls, even covering an unsightly shed, climbing and rambling roses may be put to endless use.

Combine them with a complementary clematis for an eye-catching display of colour and interest over the summer.

TOP 10 ROSES

:: English shrub rose

"Gertrude Jekyll" one of many English roses which may be relied upon for their robust habit, abundance of flowers and disease free foliage. Height 1.2m, spread 1m.

"Golden Celebration" has magnificent, golden yellow blooms with an exceptional fragrance. It is repeat flowering and ideal for pots and containers. Height and spread 120cm x 120cm.

"Scepter'd isle" is a medium shrub, with double soft pink blooms, upright growth with a strong myrrh fragrance. Will flower freely and continuously. Height 1.2m, spread 1m.

:: Old shrub roses

Rosa Mundi's (Rosa gallica versicolor) blooms are unevenly striped rose-pink and are heavily scented. Grow Rosa 'Mundi' as a low, compact hedge to divide one part of the garden or flower border from another. Height and spread 1.2m x 1.2m.

:: Modern Bush rose

"Jude the Obscure" is very free-flowering, bearing large incurved, chalice-shaped



English shrub rose 'Gertrude Jekyll' are relied upon for their robust habit



Old shrub rose 'Rosa Mundi' are heavily scented

flowers. The soft yellow blooms possess an outstanding fruity fragrance. Height 1.2m, spread 1.1m.

"For Your Eyes Only" was Rose of the year in 2015. A repeat-flowering floribunda rose, it bears a profusion of single scented pink blooms beautifully shaded with a halo of apricot and salmon and a distinctive rich pink eye. Height and spread 1m x 1m.

:: Patio rose

"Sweet Dream" offers bushy, upright growth and dense foliage, which makes this apricot-peach, patio rose suitable for the rock garden. Height 45cm.

:: Rambler

"Felicite et Perpetue" is a classic rambler rose with distinctive pom-pom flowers mass throughout the season. A delicate scent,



There's plenty of choice at Love Plants Shrewsbury

suggestive of primroses, recalls the early spring. Height 3.5m.

:: Climber

"New Dawn" is vigorous, fragrant and tolerant of some shade. Height 3.5m.

"Gloire de Dijon" is a very fragrant, repeat flowering rose with fully double, creamy-buff flowers, sometimes tinted pink. Height 5.4m.

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Man jailed after housing officer finds drugs haul

A HOUSING officer stumbled on a £14,000 drugs haul after a neighbour of the culprit told him the occupant of the property had not been seen for some time, a judge heard.

When the official got no answer to his knock at the door he let himself in with a pass key to check all was well, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. He did not find Marcus Jones but found two mobile phones, a bag of cannabis valued at £270 and another substance in several plastic bags.

Public sector pay limit 'won't change'

DOWNING Street has insisted there is no change in policy on the public sector pay cap, after a minister told the Commons there was an "active discussion" under way to ensure frontline workers are paid fairly.

Policing minister Nick Hurd's comments came after Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson called for a wage boost for public sector workers who have been subject to a one per cent cap on annual pay rises since 2012, following a two-year freeze.

Pressure is mounting on the Prime Minister Theresa May and Chancellor Philip Hammond to relax austerity, with several Tory MPs calling for an end to the pay cap after the party lost its majority in the General Election to anti-austerity Labour, which has pledged to scrap the 1% ceiling.

Mr Hurd said: "We want to make sure that frontline public service workers are paid fairly for their work."

This turned out to be enough heroin to supply £13,700 worth of street deals, said Miss Aimee Parkes, prosecuting.

Police found £295 when they searched the address and later discovered a series of text messages relating to drug deals on the mobile phones that were forensically checked following the discovery in December 2015, said the prosecutor.

Jones, from Hawthorne Road, Stow Heath, admitted selling cannabis to a small circle of friends who already used the drug and spent the cash feeding his drug habit.

The prosecution also accepted that the 23-year-old had been looking after the heroin for his dealer who paid him in cannabis, the court heard.

Mr Michael Anning, defending, said: "He was living in a hostel at the time and his only income was from benefits. The only way he could feed his cannabis habit was to sell the drug to friends who were already using it."

"He was then taken advantage of by his dealer who got him to act as a custodian of the heroin. He is now reconciled with his mother and has put his life back together."

Jones admitted possession of heroin and cannabis with intent to supply and was jailed for two and a half years.

CBeebies attraction for safari park



Visitors to West Midland Safari Park can soon enjoy Giggly Park

A NEW £850,000 themed play area for children is being created at West Midland Safari Park.

The multi-sensory area at the Bedwley-based attraction will be called Giggly Park and will be officially opened this summer. It will feature a rare creature from the Australian outback and other special characters and has been created specially to appeal to young visitors.

Children will be able to find CBeebies favourite Boj and his friends, while exploring and taking part in play in the different interactive zones at the site, designed specifically for young visitors. The play area is being themed around the CBeebies favourite character and is being created next to the African Village at the Safari Park.

Different

Boj is a rare burrowing bilby from the Australian outback, created by Pesky Productions, who have been heavily involved in the project.

The different zones being created for the play area will feature other characters from the show, such as Mia, Mr Cloppity and Denzel with various activities and objects for youngsters to explore.

Neil James, the park's project manager, said, "This has been an exciting and challenging project to work on and something completely different."

The children's play area will be included in the standard admission.

Ex-nursing home may be education site

A FORMER nursing home that sold for £300,000 at auction last year is to become a specialist education facility if plans are approved by council chiefs.

According to the listing on Right-Move, a let has been agreed at £3,600 a month at the former Bushbury Court Nursing Home, on Hellier Road, Wolverhampton.

Plans have also been submitted to City of Wolverhampton Council to transform the site into "an Ofsted-registered independent school facility for children who require additional support and guidance to progress with their education."

The facility would host up to 54 children from Key Stages two to four and would create 20 full-time and 15 part-time jobs.

Horizon Care and Education Group Ltd have submitted the plans to the council.

The site was sold off by NHS Property Services in November last year after concerns were raised about the lack of security in the former car park, which councillors believed was becoming a site of anti-social behaviour.

Bushbury Court was shut in October 2015 after the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group said it had to close because of 'some outdated facilities' with regards to dementia care.

Punk rock group heads for city

PUNK rock group Sham 69 will play Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms later this year.

The band, led by singer Jimmy Pursey, are to appear on Friday, November 24.

Sham 69, formed in 1976, had a string of singles hits in the late seventies. These included If The Kids Are United, Hershman Boys and Hurry Up Harry.

Girls get to grips with taking on a new direction for future careers

Women engineers in the driving seat

WHEN Elsa Reeve watches Formula 1 motor racing on television, her eyes are always glued to Lewis Hamilton.

And not because she admires his driving technique. There is another, more important reason why the 24-year-old gets excited when Lewis tears around the track in pole position. She designed the wing on the front of his car.

"I always get excited when I see it on television," she says. "The fact that it is the wing on the front of the car means that everybody can see it."

Encourage

Elsa, who is a design engineer for the Mercedes Formula 1 team, was one of the motivational speakers at a Wolverhampton University open day to encourage girls to consider careers in engineering.

During the event to mark International Women in Engineering day at the university's Telford Innovation Campus, she told how entering the traditionally male-dominated world of motor racing had opened up to her an exciting world of opportunity she could only have dreamt of as a child.

"It's incredibly exciting, and I can't imagine doing anything else," she says.

But she says her life would probably have taken a very different path were it not for a conversation she



West Bromwich's Phoenix Collegiate School pupils have their picture taken



Megan Handley, 15, from Willenhall E-Act Academy, trying out the aircraft simulator



Guest speaker Elsa Reeve, aged 24, a composite design engineer, talks to Megan Reece, 15, from Willenhall E-Act Academy



Philippa Dolby, aged 17, from Walsall Academy in Bloxwich, seen with items made in a 3D printer

overheard between a careers adviser and another pupil at her school. I went to see a careers adviser, and told them what I was doing. They said I should do science at university.

"But then I overheard them talking to the person behind me in the queue, he was doing exactly the same subjects, and they suggested engineering, and I thought that sounded interesting."

"I think it was just because he was a boy; it is strange to think that still goes on today."

Engineering is certainly a career with opportunities. Engineering UK estimates that Britain needs to recruit an extra 20,000 engineers every year, yet at the moment just nine per cent of them are female –

the lowest percentage rate in Europe. Marketing manager David Witton says there are approximately 400 engineering students at the university, with about a quarter of them being female.

Elsa believes this might partly be due to an outdated image that some might have of what engineering is about. "A lot of young people when they hear about engineering, they think it is the man who comes to fix your boiler," she says.

"Not that there is anything wrong with that, but it also about people working in a lot of varied and exciting careers."

Arabella Bayliss, 14, from Willenhall E-Act Academy, enjoyed trying to fly a plane at the event.

She says she is not sure whether

she wants to pursue a career in engineering, but says she was encouraged by the experience. "It was much more interesting than I thought it would be," she said.

Her schoolmate Megan Handley, 15, said she would definitely consider a career in engineering, although it helps that she already has plenty of role models in the family.

"I like physics and maths at school, and my family are all into engineering. My dad is an electrical engineer and my cousins are studying it," she says.

Kirsty Hayes, 13, of the Phoenix Collegiate in West Bromwich said she too had been impressed by what she had seen.

"It was really interesting for me, it was more interesting than I thought

it would be," she says. Postgraduate student Navya Venkateshaiah, who came to study at Wolverhampton from Bangalore in India, says she was very surprised by how few girls were opting to study the subject when she arrived in Britain.

"In India, you would find that half of the students would be girls, so I was quite disappointed when I found I was the only one," she says.

"It's not a problem, everyone got on really well, but it is very different in India."

Navya, who says her ambition is to be an astronaut with the Indian space agency, is showing off a robot called Layla which she has built as part of her her masters degree in mechatronics.

Centre is to pool skills in lifesaving

ACCOMPLISHED swimmers can learn lifesaving skills with a nationally recognised training course at a Black Country leisure centre.

The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) national pool lifeguard course will take place at Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge. Sessions will take place from tomorrow and July 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16.

Participants will receive a course manual and special tuition as part of the course and will be expected to take an exam at the end on July 16.

Those who complete the course successfully will obtain an official lifeguard qualification and certificate.

Participants must be over 16 years of age and will be expected to take a pre-arranged swimming test.

For more information contact Nikki Tranter on 07557 856530 or to book a place contact Crystal Leisure Centre on 01384 812800.

Model way to see Cold War aircraft

A MODEL aircraft rally returns to the Royal Air Force Museum at Cosford next week.

The event, on July 15 and 16, is an air show in miniature, and is set to attract thousands of aviation and modelling enthusiasts.

It will have a Cold War flying theme with model aircraft including a 20ft Vulcan bomber taking to the skies.

The Vulcan will be joined by fellow Cold War aircraft including: a Victor, Lightning, Canberra and Javelin, all of which can be viewed in full size inside the Museum's National Cold War Exhibition.

Advance tickets are on sale at the RAF Museum Cosford, at £8 per adult. Tickets bought on the gate cost £10 per adult and children under the age of 16 are free.

RICK'S READY TO ROLL AT CHASE GIG

INSIDE

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Managers Paul and Carol always ensure a warm welcome to customers both old and new at Blackheath's Shoulder of Mutton pub.

For all the sports fans they boast three large TV screens featuring all sports on Sky, BT and all BOX OFFICE Events not to mention AT THE RACES.

For those who like 'doing' rather than 'watching', there is the availability of the pool table and dart board.

Loyalty

The pub itself boasts a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including four 'Real Ales' which they rotate weekly. Regulars very often enjoy ales such as Bathams, AJ Ales, Oakham, JHB, Stairway To Heaven and MA Pardoes Entire, plus many more!

The pub also run a loyalty scheme which means customers can get 10p back on their card for every pound they spend.

A pub spokesman added: "With a juke box and free WiFi to compliment the regular entertainment every Friday, customers cannot ask for much more from a local pub!"

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Rick: Angels really are on my side

When Rick Astley walked away from the music business at the age of 27, he imagined that would be that. The singer had sold the best part of 40 million records and his 1987 song *Never Gonna Give You Up* had been a number one hit single in 25 countries and won a Brit Award.

His retirement in 1993 was meant to be for real. And when he re-emerged in 2007, he imagined it would be just for laughs and a few bob here and there. The last thing he expected was hitting number one on the album chart at the age of 50.

And yet the singer has led a charmed life. He only joined his band, FBI, because the singer had left for a career as a hairdresser. And he only came to the attention of Pete Waterman because he was working as a recording studio tea boy, or so the story goes.

"I don't think anybody around me or anybody who knows me was expecting that, to have a number one album in the UK again. That was pretty freaky."

Rick went to number one last year and has been riding the crest of a wave ever since. He's played sold out shows across the UK and is back to headline Saturday's Cannock Chase gig for Forest Live, with special guest Rumer.

He wasn't particularly nervous about the release of 50. He had realistic expectations - that didn't involve getting to number one. He hoped the record would be well promoted and that people would, a) get to hear it, and, b) enjoy it.

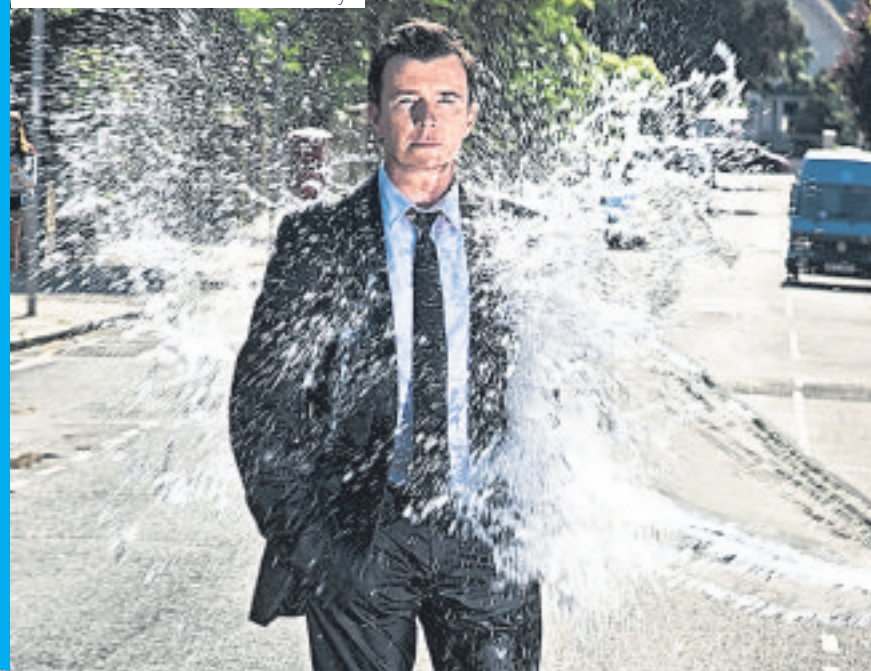
"In a lot of ways, no, really, there wasn't any pressure. I didn't have anything to be nervous about - because, like I said, we didn't really have any expectations. I made this record myself in my own studio at home. I wrote it all, produced it, played all the instruments. It was a labour of love. It's been something I kind of wanted to do to mark my 50th birthday, which was this year, but obviously I was making the record last year. I didn't anticipate anything fantastic happening. I just kind of thought, 'Well, we'll see how we can put the record out and we'll see how it goes'."

The most remarkable aspect of 50 was its sheer quality. A spiritual record, it was deeply soulful and rich in sound. Rick was happy with that aspect of it - and thrilled that it earned him a gold disc by selling more than a quarter of a million copies.

"I think, for me, even as a small kid, I sang in choirs - at the church choir, school choir. They weren't gospel choirs, that's for sure, but the idea of singing with other people. When I was having *Never Gonna Give You Up* and a couple of the other hits, I wouldn't have thought that deeply about certain lyrics, I don't think, because they were pop songs - It was like, 'girl meets boy, boom', you know. Having lived a bit longer now, I think certain things that have happened in my life have definitely changed the way I feel about things."

"The song *Angels On My Side* is about the fact that I have two elder brothers and an older sister and

Rick headlines the Forest Live gig on Cannock Chase on Saturday



they looked out for me a lot. My mum and dad got divorced - and obviously, my mum and dad looked after me - but I'm saying having older brothers and an older sister, that could have gone one of two ways. They could have neglected the youngest kid, and I don't think they did. I think they looked after me. That's happened right through my career, as well: I've had good people around me. I've still got most of my sanity. And I've still got some money, which is a freaky thing in this industry sometimes. When people have a pop career, they kind of get churned up and thrown out the other end, and they have a disastrous life sometimes after it. And I've had a charmed, amazing life."

Rick had a testing childhood because his mum and dad lost a son before he was born and became very unhappy, before going their separate ways. That upbringing led him to music because he found his escape by singing.

"When you're around two people who are very, very, very unhappy, i.e. your parents, it's really tough - and that's why I got into music, I think. I wanted to be at the school choir. I wanted to be at church, even though I wasn't necessarily very religious. I just wanted to be

I've had good people around me. I've still got most of my sanity

somewhere else with people my own age and singing really helped me. One of the songs on the album is called *Keep Singing*, and that's kind of, again, what that is about - that singing's been good for me."

And yet Rick didn't imagine that he'd be as successful as he's been. He certainly didn't anticipate becoming a star in the USA, where *Whenever You Need Somebody* became a double platinum album.

"To be honest, having success in America, a couple number ones and a few top tens, you kind of think, 'It doesn't get any bigger than that'. But then again, I would look at other artists around my time - if you look at George Michael's career through the 80s and into the 90s and stuff, I mean, it's on a different league, a different level. Another British guy, obviously. So I think, to be fair, it was four or five years of being really famous. And I wouldn't swap it for anything: It was an amazing experience, you know, because I made quite a lot of money. And I'm one of those people who actually wants to say that, because the way I look at the money side of it is that it bought me freedom. I've been free to do a lot of other things that I wanted to do. Nothing maybe too extravagant, but just freedom."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see **The Ticket** in your Express & Star every Friday.

Watermill's Romeo And Juliet



Oh Romeo, bar-crossed lovers meet in a night club

Medieval Italy is swapped for a modern night club in Watermill Theatre's vibrant new production of Romeo And Juliet, part of the touring theatre company's short Shakespeare season at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Music by rock band The Vaccines, folk-rock stars Mumford and Sons and singer-songwriter Hozier feature in Paul Hart's explosive production of Shakespeare's tale of all-consuming young love compromised by family loyalty.

Romeo And Juliet is given a contemporary feel by a cast of actor-musicians in a production that also features original music by Johnny Flynn, from TV's

Brotherhood and Lovesick. It is being performed at 2.30pm and again at 7.30 on Wednesday, July 12.

Then, on Thursday and Friday evening, July 13 and 14, Watermill will stage a 1920s-set version of Twelfth Night featuring jazz music by Duke Ellington, Django Reinhardt and Louis Armstrong.

Director Paul Hart said: "A jazz club seems the perfect setting for Twelfth Night given the play's obsession with music, love and excess.

"Featuring live music performed by our multi-talented company, the soundtrack will be 1920s influenced with a modern twist."

Tickets start from £12.50 (plus £3 booking fee), see grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

Grand concert to celebrate hospice

A unique concert featuring local, national and international talent will be held in Wolverhampton to mark 35 years of Compton Hospice.

Ethos - The Best of Times, produced and directed for Compton Hospice by Jeremy Hobbs, will be an emotional blend of music, song and dance highlighting the work of the city's hospice. It is being held at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next Saturday, July 15, and the evening will culminate with the 100 Voices of the Celebration Choir, celebrating the joy of life.

Composer and concert pianist Luke Faulkner, pictured, with Aimee Fisher and Lauren Soley from the London cast of Les Miserables will be performing I Dreamed A Dream and On My Own. Tony O'Rourke, who will be remembered for his stunning performances at the Grand Theatre in La Cage Aux Folles, will be reprising his show-stopping version of I Am What I Am and Alison Room will tug at the heart strings with Time Heals Everything from Mack And Mabel.

Colette Forsyth, Holly-Ann White and dancers from Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company (Muscom) will be joined by the

Denise Robinson School of Dance and exciting young singer Annabel Rockett, national finalist in Rotary International Young Musician of the Year. Violinist Karolina Tomaszewicz will perform the haunting Schindler's List.

Members of the Compton Hospice Choir will be performing together with the 'Pure Imagination' of Nick Sullivan and the children of Newbridge Preparatory School.

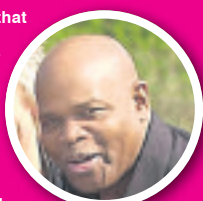
Tickets from the box office in Lichfield Street, online at grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.



Mod dream double bill at the Robin 2

It's the kind of dream gig that can only happen in the alternative universe of the tribute band, a double header of top Mod groups, The Who and the Small Faces.

Who's Who will play on the same bill as the Small Fakers at Bilston's Robin 2 venue next Saturday, July 15. Other highlights at the Robin include acclaimed duo Ezio on July 12 and a 25th anniversary of the opening of the original Robin venue with Soul Survivors featuring Mel Day, pictured, on July 14 at the 1992 door price £6.



Young dance talent in action at festival

U.Dance 2017, the UK's annual youth dance festival, is at Birmingham Hippodrome from July 14 to 16. On the Friday West Midlands-based Motionhouse share the stage with the National Youth Dance Company and groups from London, Edinburgh, Hampshire, Northampton and Brighton. Saturday sees the National Youth Dance Company of Scotland in action with groups including Birmingham's DanceXchange and Kidderminster's Ignite. Sunday's line-up includes Birmingham's ACE Youth and National Youth Dance Wales. Daily tickets are £10/£8. In the Hippodrome, The Patrick Centre hosts Navadal (New Shoots), Akademi's South Asian youth dance contest on Saturday, July 15. Tickets £5. See birminghamhippodrome.com website and onedanceuk.org for U.Dance.

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CHOICE



Tristram Hunt
Museum of the Year (BBC2, 9.30pm)
Tristram Hunt, the newly appointed director of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, presents coverage of Art Fund's 2017 Museum of the Year ceremony. This year, the finalists are London's Tate Modern and John Soane Museum, the Newmarket Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art, Birmingham's Lapworth Museum of Geology, and the Hepworth art gallery in Wakefield. In 2016, the V&A claimed the coveted award, and here, Tristram seeks tips and advice on maintaining its lofty reputation from those responsible for running the museums up for recognition this year.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.15** Wimbledon 2017. Coverage from the All England Club.
6.25 **BBC News.**
6.35 **Regional Programme.**
6.45 **Pointless Celebrities.** Ed Baines, Paul Rankin, Tony Singh, Cyrus Todiwala, Jean-Christophe Novelli, Jo Pratt, Richard Burr and Frances Quinn compete in a "food and drink" themed edition of the quiz. (R)
7.30 **Pitch Battle.** The choral music contest reaches its fourth heat, as another six diverse groups seek to demonstrate their vocal skills. This time, the ensembles are young chamber choir Tring Park 16, West Midlands-based musical theatre enthusiasts Crescendo, Oxford University a capella group Oxford Alternatives, classical quintet Vox-Xover, all-girl pop ensemble Vocallies, and Dublin barbershop choir The Rampparts. Each group is given a chance to display their speciality with a "showstopper" performance, before battling it out with their rivals in a themed "riff-off".
9.00 **Casualty.** Ethan discovers Scott's brother Mickey is in a secret relationship with Jez, and he seeks to befriend the lad and turn him against his sibling. However, when Mickey proves to be too terrified to help, Ethan turns to blackmail instead, earning disapproval from both Jez and Alicia. Meanwhile, Connie pulls rank on Sam when he asks for time off to take Grace to a physiotherapy session, and later, Sam spots a chance to undermine Connie while treating a bride who mysteriously collapsed at the altar.
9.50 **BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.10 **Film: Little Fockers.** (2010) A father of twins invites his family to his kids' birthday party and tries to finally prove his worth to his father-in-law. Comedy sequel, with Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro.
11.45 **Film: Tropic Thunder.** (2008) The cast of a Vietnam War movie unknowingly wanders into the middle of a real-life conflict. Comedy, directed by and starring Ben Stiller, with Jack Black.
1.30 **Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 **Film:** Lucky Partners. (1940) **7.35** John Mills: Talking Pictures. (R) **8.15** **Film:** Scott of the Antarctic. (1948)
10.00 Athletics: Diamond League Highlights. **11.00** Wimbledon 2017. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** **Film:** Father of the Bride. (1950) Comedy, starring Spencer Tracy and Elizabeth Taylor. **2.30** Wimbledon 2017. Sue Barker presents further live coverage on day six of the Third Grand Slam tournament of the year at the All England Club, featuring the third-round matches in the singles draws.
8.30 **Today at Wimbledon.** Clare Balding introduces highlights of the sixth day's play at the All England Club, where the men's and ladies' third-round singles matches were due to reach a conclusion. The middle Saturday is always a special occasion at SW19 and the crowd on Centre Court last year were treated to the sight of Milos Raonic and Andy Murray progressing to the fourth round with respective victories over Jack Sock and John Millman, while Novak Djokovic was dumped out of the tournament on Court One against Sam Querrey.
9.30 **Museum of the Year.** Tristram Hunt presents coverage of Art Fund's 2017 Museum of the Year ceremony, and meets some of the people responsible for running the museums up for recognition this year.
10.00 **Mock the Week.** Topical comedy quiz show, hosted by Dara O Briain. (R)
10.30 **QI XL.** Bill Bailey, Jo Brand and Greg Davies join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Stephen Fry to meander through miscellaneous marriage and mating matters.
11.15 **Film: 2001: A Space Odyssey.** (1968) Scientists detect a mysterious black monolith on the moon is transmitting a signal to Jupiter. A spacecraft is sent on a mission to investigate the origins of the strange object, but as they near their destination, the astronauts realise the computer controlling the ship is turning against them. Stanley Kubrick's sci-fi epic, with Keir Dullea.
1.30 **Film:** West. (2014) An East German mother emigrating to West Germany is interrupted about her dead boyfriend, who is suspected of being a spy. Drama, with Joridis Triebel and Tristan Gobel.
3.05 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Home Game. (R) **10.20** **Film:** Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. (2002) **1.20** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. Coverage of today's races from Sandown Park and Haydock Park. **4.00** The Chase. (R) **5.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. (R) **5.30** Little Big Shots US.
6.25 **Regional Programme;** Weather.
6.35 **ITV News;** Weather.
6.45 **Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues.
7.30 **The Voice Kids.** The Blind Auditions are now over, meaning it is time for coaches Will.i.am, Danny Jones and Pixie Lott to begin the difficult process of whittling down the number of would be pop icons in their respective teams. Emma Willis presents as the battle phase gets under way. This time, the youngsters are arranged into groups of three to face another daunting turn on the stage. Only one singer from each trio can make it through to the semi-final, and remain in the running to claim the £30,000 contribution to their musical education – and the family holiday to Disneyland Paris.
9.00 **Film: Skyfall.** (2012) James Bond pursues a mysterious criminal mastermind who has orchestrated a terrorist attack on MI6 headquarters and exposed the identities of undercover agents around the world. The trail leads to a rogue former operative who has a personal vendetta against the intelligence organisation's leader. Action thriller, starring Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem, Judi Dench, Ralph Fiennes and Naomi Harris.
10.05 **ITV News;** Weather.
10.20 **Film: Skyfall.** (2012) Continued.
12.05 The Chase. (R) **1.00** Jackpot247.
3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Motor Sport: Caterham. **6.40** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.05** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.50** Frasier. (R) **9.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.20** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **4.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.30** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.
7.00 **Film: Rise of the Planet of the Apes.** (2011) A scientist carries out genetic experiments on apes, hoping to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. A chimpanzee used in the tests develops superior intelligence and becomes outraged at the human race's cruel treatment of his kind, forming his fellow primates into an army to overthrow mankind. Sci-fi thriller, starring James Franco, Freida Pinto and Andy Serkis.
9.00 **Film: Bridesmaids.** (2011) A disorganised woman is asked to be maid of honour at her best friend's wedding. Taking charge of the prenuptial bridal celebrations, she resolves to give her pal and accompanying bridesmaids the time of their lives, but as her efforts slide into chaos she finds the time of the groom's boss is keen to usurp her position. Comedy, with Kristen Wiig, Rose Byrne and Melissa McCarthy.
11.20 **Film: Red Eye.** (2005) A hotelier on a flight to Miami realises a passenger she has befriended is intent on involving her in a political assassination. Thriller, with Rachel McAdams and Cillian Murphy.
12.55 Ramsay's Hotel Hell. A family-built inn with huge debts in Oregon. (R) **1.45** Holyoaks. Omnibus. Milo helps Cindy to take a robbery at The Emporium for the sympathy vote in the election, while Jesse takes Grace for a viewing at a potential new club. **3.50** Ackley Bridge. Kaneez is furious to discover that Nas is considering the arranged marriage, but the pressure of her web of lies leads Nas to break down to her mum and confess that she is gay. (R) **4.45** Shipping Wars UK. The race for Transporter of the Week reaches its climax. (R) **5.15** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.45** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. The agents chase almost £3,000 owed by Indian takeaway owners, but when the staff deny any knowledge of the debt, the agents threaten to seize kitchen equipment. In east London they face a race against time to recover more than £8,000 from an electrical services company, and in Cheshire the enforcement agents chase nearly £4,000 of debt owed by a mobile phone shop. (R)
6.55 **5 News Weekend.**
7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v South Africa. Highlights of the third day's play in the First Test of the four-match series, which took place at Lord's. With commentary by Graeme Smith, Geoffrey Boycott, Simon Hughes, Michael Vaughan and Mark Nicholas.
8.00 **Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady gives more love/lorn singletons a chance at romance. Manchester-based recruitment consultant Antoni must choose which of three self-assured ladies he would like to date, while Alice, a Celine Dion super-fan hopes her musical obsession will not stop her finding a girlfriend on her wavelenght.
9.00 **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother. Featuring games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-late, as well as reactions to the latest eviction. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
10.00 **Live Boxing: Josh Taylor vs O'hara Davies.** Coverage of the bout for the Commonwealth Super Lightweight title, which takes place at Braehead Arena in Glasgow.
12.00 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** **Film:** The Darkest Hour. (2011) Sci-fi horror, starring Emile Hirsch. **4.40** Access. **4.50** Great Artists. Sculptor, architect and painter Michelangelo. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Britain and the Sea **8.00** Nature's Great Events **9.00** **Film:** Mea Culpa (2014) **10.25** Titanic's Tragic Twin: The Britannic Disaster **11.25** Top of the Pops: 1984 **12.35** Synth Britannia at the BBC **1.35** Synth Britannia **3.05** Close
ITV2
12.10 Take Me Out **1.20** Catchphrase **2.05** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.35** **Film:** A Cinderella Story (2004) **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40** **Film:** A Cinderella Story (2004) **4.30** **Film:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **5.35** FYI Daily **5.40** **Film:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **6.45** **Film:** Step Up 3 (2010) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55** **Film:** Step Up 3 (2010) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** **Film:** Bring It On (2000) **2.15** FYI Daily **2.20** **Film:** Bring It On (2000) **2.55** Teleshopping
ITV3
11.00 **Film:** The Mirror Crack'd (1980) **12.05** Bertie and Elizabeth **2.05** Hans Christian Andersen: My Life as a Fairy Tale **4.00** Myciffie **5.05** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Law & Order: UK **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.00 Tour de France Live. Coverage of stage eight. **4.30** Pawn Stars **5.00** Better Late Than Never **5.55** Monster Carp **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.05** **Film:** Renegades (1989) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** **Film:** Renegades (1989) **11.15** **Film:** Awake (2007) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25** **Film:** Awake (2007) **12.55** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** The Hand of God: 30 Years On **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.00 The Goldbergs **3.00** **Film:** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Die Hard 2 (1990) **11.25** Gogglebox **1.35** The Intebweeners **2.35** Tattoo Fixers **3.30** Rude Tube **4.25** How I Met Your Mother **Film4**
11.00 Step Up 4: Miami Heat (2012) **1.00** Moomins on the Riviera (2014) **2.35** Letters to Juliet (2010) **4.40** Men in Black (1997) **6.35** The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2011) Comedy drama, starring Judi Dench and Bill Nighy. **9.00** The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1 (2014) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Jennifer Lawrence. **11.20** Solomon Kane (2010) **1.25** I Love You Phillip Morris (2009) **3.35** Close

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

FANTASTIC CARVERY 7 DAYS A WEEK

They always say never judge a book by its cover so we decided to check out The Park Lane Tavern in Colley Gate, and I have to say what was on offer in there was a total surprise.



It serves a carvery option 7 days a week from midday which consists of a choice of 4 meats, turkey, beef, pork and gammon and accompanied by stuffing, Yorkshire puddings and up to 12 vegetables, topped off with what they call their "secret recipe gravy" known also as what mother used to make! All this for just £4.99 for a lunchtime meal or £5.99 evenings and Saturdays and £7.99 for Sunday lunch represents extremely good value by today's standards.

They also don't forget their mini diners with 'Kids Eat Free' Monday to Saturday between 3pm and 6pm and during school holidays it's All Day Monday to Saturday.

But it doesn't stop there they also have a full main menu consisting of the classic pub favourites such as steaks, mixed grills, burgers and fish and chips, where the fish would not be out of place in any issue of 'Moby Dick'. To finish is there very tempting dessert menu, that's if you have room after the size of meals you get at The Park Lane Tavern.

Then if that's not enough choice for you you can also choose for the breakfast which is served Friday, Saturday and Sunday 08.30am until 11.00am. Their breakfast is a buffet style 'All you can eat' with enough choice to satisfy any diner from eggs 2 ways, bacon, sausage, mushrooms, baked beans, hash browns, black pudding, grilled fresh tomatoes, toast & fried bread. There's even



jam for your toast if you still not full after all that.

Half Price Monday

They also host special evenings like their 'Half Price Monday' which has proven to be very popular, and why not, already reasonably priced selected main meals off their main menu (which includes steaks) at half price served between 5pm and 8pm every Monday. Also their psychic evenings where for £15 you get a reading from a medium and a carvery, for those believers amongst you that must be a bargain.

You get a very friendly feeling when you enter The Park Lane Tavern and that's mostly down to the staff. Happy to see you and always keen to help. They have a lot of regular customers and it's been known for a customer's drink to be poured and waiting for them before they reach the bar, you don't see that at many places nowadays.

There are no airs or graces at The Park Lane Tavern, you get delicious food at great prices served by happy staff in a comfortable environment. No wonder this place has people returning time after time.

CHOICE



Aidan Turner
Poldark (BBC1, 9pm)
The French Royalists plan an invasion, which Caroline hopes will lead to Dwight's release. However, Ross is convinced this will only make matters worse, and recruits a band of allies, including Tholly, Zacky, Drake and Henshawe, to help him free Dwight from prison. George schemes to further his political ambitions, and when he learns of Ross' plan, he uses it as a means to discredit his rival, accusing him of recklessness – a charge that may prove true when the rescue mission proves to have fatal consequences. Aidan Turner, Eleanor Tomlinson, Caroline Blakiston, Ossie Whitworth, Ellise Chappell, Beatie Edney and Jack Farthing star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Athletics: London Anniversary Games. Gabby Logan presents continued coverage from The Olympic Stadium in London. **4.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.10** Songs of Praise. **5.45** How to Holiday Better. New series. Cherry Healey and Ade Adepitan find the perfect holiday for members of the public. **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. Anita Rani visits a groundbreaking project in Northamptonshire to incorporate wildlife conservation into a retail park. John Craven visits a micro-tannery and goes in search of an elusive butterfly. Adam Henson finds out about an insect farm in Cumbria, and Tom Heap reports on homelessness in rural areas. **8.00** Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould visit a B&B in Aberdeenshire to pick up where the owner's late husband left off in proving that a painting is the work of 19th-century French artist Paul Delaroche. A visit to the British museum raises evidence that this could be a lost treasure once belonging to France's last king and queen, and they head for Normandy to inspect a stained glass window in the image of a lost Delaroche painting – but they also begin to suspect it is a copy, rather than the original. (R) **9.00** Poldark. Ross assembles a band of allies to free Dwight from prison. However, the rescue mission proves to have fatal consequences. George schemes to further his political ambitions. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Sue Barker: Our Wimbledon. The presenter travels the globe meeting Wimbledon greats such as Andy Murray, Roger Federer, Pete Sampras, Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova. (R) **11.45** The Week the Landlords Moved In. A transformative series challenging some of Britain's most successful landlords to spend an eye-opening week living in one of their own rental properties. (R) **12.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Secrets of the Mona Lisa. (R) **7.00** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.45** The Instant Gardener. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **11.30** Harry Bikers' Best of British. (R) **12.15** Athletics: London Anniversary Games. Gabby Logan presents coverage from The Olympic Stadium in London. **1.15** Film: The Great Caruso. (1951) Musical biopic of opera singer Enrico Caruso, starring Mario Lanza. **3.00** Killer Whales: Beneath the Surface – Natural World. (R) **3.45** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.30** Rowing World Cup. **5.30** Flog It! (R) **6.00** The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway: The Final Countdown. Part two of two. Engineers must construct and fit out a new station at Paddington, while a father and son team in Derby race to construct 66 trains for the Crossrail project. (R) **7.00** Dragons' Den. Entrepreneurs pitch their money-making ideas to a panel of self-made millionaires. Presented by Evan Davis. (R) **8.00** The Life Swap Adventure. A Norwegian farmer who is tiring of his demanding life swaps places with a taxi driver from Devon who wants to run a farm, but fears the financial instability. Last in the series. **9.00** Film: Foxcatcher. (2014) Premiere. A reclusive, eccentric millionaire persuades an Olympic gold-medal-winning wrestler to join his personal team. Initially flattered by the attention lavished upon him by his wealthy new friend, the fighter flourishes – but tension soon grows between them when his brother is employed as a coach, a situation that leads to tragedy. Fact-based drama, starring Steve Carell, Channing Tatum and Mark Ruffalo. **11.05** White Gold. In a bid to get back everything he has lost, his marriage, his livelihood and self-worth, Vincent concocts a spectacular plot to return to his rightful place. Last in the series. (R) **11.35** Film: The Goob. (2014) Premiere. A teenager develops a tense relationship with his mother's new boyfriend and becomes attracted to a worker in a pumpkin field. Drama, with Liam Walpole. **1.00** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.00** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Wild Animal Reunions. (R) **10.15** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.15** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.15** ITV News. **12.25** Babushka. (R) **1.30** The Voice Kids. (R) **3.00** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **3.30** Film: Moonraker. (1979) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore. **6.00** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.15** ITV News: Weather. **6.30** The Celebrity Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Todd Carty, Jo Pavey, Saira Khan and Dominic Holland pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught. **7.30** The Voice Kids. Emma Willis presents the junior version of the singing talent contest, as the battle phase continues. Coaches: Will.I.Am, Danny Jones and Pixie Lott must decide which performers out of the remaining trios will be chosen to go through to the semi-final. **9.00** The Loch. Annie finds murder weapons used by the killer and tracks the culprit down, leading to a dangerous confrontation in the dark corridors of the local hydro-electric dam. **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Lethal Weapon. Riggs makes a shocking discovery about Miranda's death, which leads him back to the cartel in a frantic search for answers. Clayne Crawford and Kevin Rahm star. (R) **11.20** Take Me Out. Men try to impress 30 single women and win a date – but must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. (R) **12.25** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Eat the Week. **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **3.10** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.10** Homes by the Sea. **5.15** Channel 4 News. **5.45** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Highlights. **8.00** Secrets of China's Forbidden City. Documentary exploring the Beijing palace that housed Chinese emperors for 600 years. The programme reveals the current conservation work being carried out and uncovers new details about past rulers, including trade with Europe and how a marble staircase was transported along an ice road. A scale model is used to demonstrate how the structure was built to withstand earthquakes. **9.00** The Handmaid's Tale. Offred remembers her family's escape attempt, leading to a shocking revelation about her life before the Gilead regime that gives her a new perspective on her current situation. **10.00** Epidemic: When Britain Fought Aids. The impact of the disease on British society, featuring personal stories from activists, doctors, and those whose lives were affected, including Paul O'Grady and Jean Paul Gaultier. **10.55** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts, with Sean Lock and Stephen Mangan taking on guest captain Richard Ayoade and Katherine Ryan, and Bill Bailey in Dictionary Corner. (R) **11.55** Film: This Means War. (2012) Two secret agents fall in love with the same woman and use their talents to sabotage each other's chances of romance. Comedy, with Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine and Tom Hardy. **1.45** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. A failing New York restaurant. (R) **2.35** The Last Leg. A comic review of the past seven days. (R) **3.30** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.55** Gillette World Sport. **4.25** Shipping Wars UK. Stu and Jemma transport a sailing boat from Cornwall to North Yorkshire. (R) **5.05** Location, Location, Location. Helping prospective buyers in Oxfordshire. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Mr Men. (R) **6.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.30** Wiggles. (R) **6.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.50** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.00** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.15** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.20** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.00** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.20** Wiggles. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.10** Little Princess. (R) **9.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. (R) **10.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.35** Film: The Flintstones. (1994) **3.15** Inside Windsor Castle. (R) **4.15** Inside Windsor Castle. (R) **5.15** Inside Windsor Castle. (R) **6.10** Inside Windsor Castle. A look at 20 years in the life of the Queen and her family, covering the era from 1972, when she celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary, to 1992. Last in the series. (R) **7.00** Cricket on 5. England v South Africa. Highlights of the fourth day's play in the First Test of the four-match series, which took place at Lord's. **7.55** 5 News Weekend. **8.00** That's So 1990. Memories of the year Italy hosted the World Cup, prime minister Mrs Thatcher handed over the reins to John Major and fears of the spread of BSE – so-called mad cow disease – grew. (R) **9.00** Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. **10.05** OMG: Make Me a Famous Face. People undergoing cosmetic surgery to look like celebrities, including Katie Price, Kim Kardashian and Zayn Malik. Plus, a man who wants to look like a Ken doll. **11.05** Film: The Bounty Hunter. (2010) A bail enforcement agent is assigned to track down his own ex-wife, a reporter who is investigating a murder cover-up. Action comedy, starring Gerard Butler and Jennifer Aniston. **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **4.00** Britain's Greatest Bridges. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Royal Ballet: Woolf Works **9.00** Horizon: Space Volcanoes **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Destination Titan **11.30** The Search for Life: The Drake Equation **12.30** Nature's Great Events **1.30** The Royal Ballet: Woolf Works **3.30** Close **ITV2**
11.50 The Voice Kids **1.20** Ninja Warrior UK **2.20** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.55** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **5.00** Film: St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **6.00** FYI Daily **6.05** Film: St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **7.10** Film: Gravity (2013) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20** Film: Gravity (2013) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Afternoon **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.55** Planet's Funniest Animals **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
11.15 The Darling Buds of May **12.30** The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes **2.50** Wycliffe **3.55** Foyles's War **6.00** Doc Martin **8.00** The Booby Cruise 2: The Treasure Hunt **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.00** Wire in the Blood **3.30** May the Best House Win **5.10** Rising Damp **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
4.30 Pawn Stars **5.00** Monster Carp **6.00** Fierce **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Road Racing Series **9.00** Film: Jaws (1975) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Jaws (1975) **11.40** FYI Daily **12.45** Film: Renegades (1989) **1.45** Tour de France Highlights **2.40** Football Rivalries **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
11.00 Binky & JP's Baby: Born in Chelsea **12.00** New Girl **1.00** Kevin Can Wait **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.00** Film: 101 Dalmatians (1996) **8.00** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **9.00** Film: The Inbetweeners 2 (2014) **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.05** Rude Tube **1.05** Tattoo Fixers **2.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats **2.55** Gogglebox **3.45** Hollyoaks **Film4**
11.00 The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **1.00** The Phantom (1996) **3.00** Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998) **5.20** A Thousand Words (2012) **7.15** Europa Report (2013) **9.00** Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (2014) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Andy Serkis. **11.45** The Quiet Ones (2014) Horror, starring Jared Harris. **1.45** To the Wonder (2012) **4.00** Close

Monday

HALF PRICE NIGHT

off our main menu 5pm - 8pm to include steak and grills

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Truth and Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Two former best friends and current enemies suspect each other of sending anonymous messages that threaten to expose their secrets. However, when they realise neither are behind it, the teenagers team up to investigate the source. Thriller, starring Dina Meyer, Emily Tennant and Keenan Tracey. (2015)

TUESDAY
Abducting Zoe, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A detective tries to help a sixteen-year-old in the search for her kidnapped baby. Crime drama, starring Sammi Hanratty and Andrea Bowen. (2014)

WEDNESDAY
Rags to Riches: Ultimate Life, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Jason Stevens is busy running his grandfather's foundation, while also having to fend off lawsuits from his extended family and lament a fleeing lover. When an inherited journal magically sends him back to 1941, it provides an unparalleled opportunity for him to witness the true rags-to-riches story of his late grandfather. Drama, starring Logan Bartholomew and Peter Fonda. (2013)



Blades of Glory, Friday, BBC1, 11.05pm

THURSDAY
Stranger in an Amish Town, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A penniless stranger and his son turn up on the doorstep of three Amish sisters, who offer him a place to stay and a job as a handyman. The women's police officer niece is suspicious of the new arrival and tries to find out where he has come from. Romantic mystery based on Serena B Miller's novel Love Finds You in Sugarcreek, Ohio, starring Sarah Lancaster, Tom Everett Scott and Kelly McGillis. (2014)

FRIDAY
Blades of Glory, BBC1, 11.05pm
A bad-boy figure skater and his effeminate arch-enemy are banned from the sport after their intense rivalry results in a brawl. However, the pair find a loophole in the regulations allowing them to enter the world championships as the first ever same-sex pair – if they can put aside their differences long enough to compete. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell. (2007)

New drama series is hoping to be a novel success

You can't beat a good drama – and it seems that the rest of the world agrees.

They form the core of pretty much all TV schedules, and we never seem to get tired of them. And every now and then, a very special one comes along that makes us sit up and take notice.

In the Dark may be one of those. It's a four-part series adapted by Danny Brocklehurst (whose previous projects include Ordinary Lies, Clocking Off and The Driver) from Mark Billingham's best-selling novels, his first books not to include the hugely popular Tom Thorne series.

Instead, the action focuses on the engaging but complex female detective Helen Weeks, who will tackle two cases.

"I am hugely thrilled that my stories are to be adapted for the screen and could not be more excited that it will be made by the BBC," says Billingham, who is currently preparing for his annual trip to the Theakston Old Peculier

Crime Writing Festival in Harrogate. "The journey from page to screen can often be tricky for authors, but with the amazing BBC Drama North team at the helm, it's one I cannot wait to embark on.

"I'm delighted to be making a show with BBC Drama North and thrilled we are setting the show in my home town of Manchester and making the city an integral part of the drama."

Brocklehurst is equally pleased to be involved in the project: "For me, crime drama is only interesting when it is told through character and in Helen Weeks, Mark has created a brilliant central character: a ballsy, funny, outspoken police woman who finds herself on the cusp of motherhood and has to grudgingly accept the vulnerability that brings to her.

"The key theme of the drama - how well do we really know those closest to us? - is a theme I find endlessly fascinating, and the fact that Helen's own life has secrets and duplicity makes the drama all the more interesting."

MyAnna Buring is the actress entrusted with bringing Helen Martin to life.

"What interested me was Danny Brocklehurst's writing and working with (head of BBC Drama North and executive producer) Hilary Martin," explains Buring. "I have such respect for their work and the way they conduct it. They have developed a great story and have now brought in a brilliant production and creative team, directors, and cast."

When we first meet Helen she is heavily pregnant, in fact, she's just two weeks away from giving birth.

She's nervous about her impending motherhood, and feels compelled to return to her rural home town of Polesford in Derbyshire with her partner, Paul, who is also a detective. She's soon embroiled in an abduction case and the chief suspect turns out to be the husband of Helen's childhood best friend Linda, who finds herself at the centre of a media storm.

But have the local police got the right man?



MyAnna Buring stars, In the Dark, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

It also follows the story of a witness who felt compelled to come forward and stand up for what he believed was right.

FRIDAY
World Para Athletics Championships London 2017
Channel 4, 7.30pm
Ade Adepitan, Sophie Morgan and Lee McKenzie introduce coverage of the evening session on day one of the Championships, taking place at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The men's T12 100m is due to get under way this evening, with five heats in the first round due to get the action under way on the track, and later they will be followed by several heats in the men's T28 800m and the women's T47 200m. Several finals are also scheduled to take place, with gold medals awarded in the men's F46 javelin and T54 100m, as well as the women's T34 100m and T15 1500m.

BBC Proms 2017
BBC2, 9pm
The nation's spirit might have been beaten down by recent events, but one annual event you can always rely on to stir the blood and boost the morale is the Proms, and the 2017 edition promises to be more special than ever.

MONDAY
How to Retire at 40
Channel 4, 8.30pm

As the slightly misleading title suggests, Anna Richardson chats to folks who have found clever or offbeat ways to retire early. They include Barney, a former accountant who retired at 43. So, not really 40 then. However, he will be sharing his tips for quitting the rate race early. Also featured are friends who found a new way to buy property for less; the man who's made a packet sending spuds through the post, and a family who insist on only spending money two days a week (though it's anyone's guess how much cash they spend on those days). Cameras also follow Pippa, who has made over £3million in two years; Sophie Morgan meets trend-spotters, and there are tips on how to get restaurant quality meals for a fraction of the price. Plus, Rhik Samadder meets more of the UK's leading supersavers.

TUESDAY
Tried and Tasted: The Ultimate Shopping List
Channel 4, 8pm

Chef Michel Roux Jr and a panel of food experts blind taste-test some of the nation's favourite food and drink. Joining the host is restaurant manager and First Dates' Fred Sirieix, journalist, broadcaster

and critic Jay Rayner, baker and deli owner Stacie Stewart, and TV presenter and foodie mum Lucy Alexander. The panel this week choose between four different brands of steak and ale pie, humourous and sauvignon blanc – the UK's most popular wine.

WEDNESDAY
Love Your Garden
ITV, 8pm

At Chandlers Ford near Eastleigh in Hampshire, Alan Titchmarsh and the team attempt to transform a neglected suburban back garden into a woodland-style retreat. The Richardson family, who own the residence, are facing a very difficult future. Following some challenging years, dad Jason has been taken off the heart and kidney transplant list. The father of two survives by means of a heavy portable external machine which keeps his heart working and thrice-weekly kidney dialysis sessions. As a result, the family are tied to their home and are in need of an outdoor space which can become a retreat. Step forward Alan, David Domoney, Francis Tophill and Katie Rushworth, who battle terrible rain to make the Richardsons' dream a reality.

THURSDAY
Murdered for Being Different
BBC1, 10.45pm

In the early hours of August 11, 2007, 20-year-old Sophie Lancaster and her boyfriend of three years, Robert Maltby, were attacked by a gang of youths while walking through a park near their homes in Bacup, Lancashire.

It was an unprovoked assault, initially on Robert who was knocked unconscious. While cradling his head, Sophie was kicked and died later in hospital. Those responsible had tormented the mild-mannered, sensitive couple due to their appearance – they were immersed in the goth culture. This moving and disturbing drama has been made in close collaboration with Sophie's family, Robert and the police, and examines exactly what happened.



BBC Proms 2017, Friday, BBC2, 9pm

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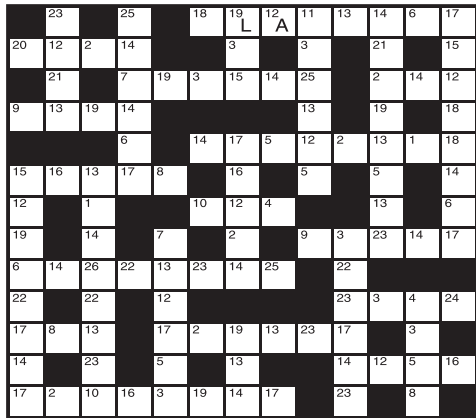
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BRAIN GYM

No.437

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	D	L	H	Y	J	Q	I	E	T	P	B	N	X
2	M	W	Z	O	A	C	U	G	F	K	S	V	R

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

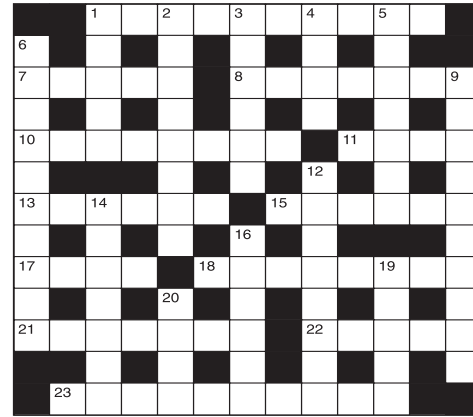
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- A teacher has to look after a genius (6,4)
- Distance to measure right inside (5)
- Puts on something saucy? (7)
- Good stroke for a cricketer, but not a golfer (3-5)
- A girl to avoid (4)
- Properly dressed soldiers are (2,4)
- He provides a new setting for the doctor (6)
- Terrible ruler of vain disposition (4)
- Vendors, possibly nameless (8)
- Being agreeable, but saying nothing (7)
- Excel, but not in a party (5)
- It necessitates a lot of extra work in the theatre (5,5)

Down

- It's an idea if Tom comes up first (5)
- Guiding line about two similar points (8)
- A plant useful in salads may be envied (6)
- Suitable start for the hunting season (4)
- Possibly retains, though being less agreeable (7)
- I'm taking the attitude that it's rather a burden (10)
- Light that goes up and down (4,6)
- Bet a long striding gait is natural to it (8)
- Hero worshipper (7)
- Rushes into boats (6)
- Capital wear for a bishop (5)
- Surveyor's opinion (4)



Quick Clues:

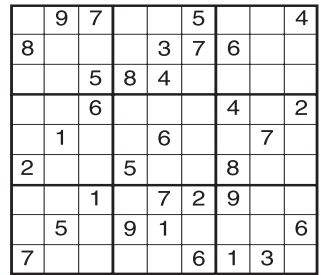
Across

- Abeyance (10)
- Fragrance (5)
- Commerce (7)
- Conversant (8)
- Daybreak (4)
- Sadness (6)
- Centre (6)
- Besides (4)
- Collect (6,2)
- Bit (7)
- Got up (5)
- Go first (4,3,3)

Down

- Rage (5)
- Horse (8)
- Ensnare (6)
- Smack (4)
- Casual (7)
- Dozing (4-6)
- About (10)
- Retire (8)
- Lay by (7)
- Initiate (6)
- Hazardous (5)
- Benevolent (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	5	7	3	6	9	8	2	4
2	3	8	7	5	4	1	6	9
3	2	5	1	9	6	4	8	7
4	7	1	5	8	2	9	3	6
5	9	8	6	4	7	3	2	1
6	5	6	2	8	4	7	3	9
7	1	3	9	2	5	6	4	8
8	9	4	6	3	1	7	5	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Redcoat; 7 Clout; 9 Ark; 10 Intricate; 12 Making money; 15 Amateur team; 17 Eagle-eyed; 19 End; 21 Class; 22 Give out; Down: 1 Wears; 2 Ice; 3 Pain; 4 Electoral; 5 Aunties; 8 Aright; 11 Faithless; 13 Inures; 14 Amiable; 16 Undue; 18 Erie; 20 Pea. QUICK - Across: 6 Precede; 7 Humid; 9 Gap; 10 Recumbent; 12 Dissimulate; 15 Penetrating; 17 Contender; 19 Old; 21 Decoy; 22 Against. Down: 1 Break; 2 Act; 3 Idle; 4 Turbulent; 5 Dignity; 8 Summit; 11 Direction; 13 Strong; 14 Recover; 16 Clasp; 18 Edge; 20 Hit.

Quiz

- Of what is Soweto a contraction?
- Where did Norwegian Liv Arnesen become the first woman to reach alone?
- Which scavenger may be brown, striped or spotted?
- What nationality was General Blücher, Wellington's ally at Waterloo?
- Which Monty Python star wrote the novel Hemingway's Chair?

- With which art form is 'Grandma' Moses associated?
- Of which city is Spandau a suburb?
- With which art form is the American Virgil Thomson associated?
- What would someone with dysphagia have difficulty doing?
- In which country is the Ruahine mountain range?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Henry Fielding; 2 The brain; 3 Fanny Cradock; 4 Denmark; 5 Footpad; 6 Australia; 7 Nebula; 8 James I; 9 John Osborne; 10 Inverness.

Niner: ORGANISED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6284237
454
189

gives a bird,
gives a second bird,
gives a winged creature.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

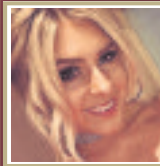
THE KNIGHTS QUEST LEADING ENTERTAINMENT



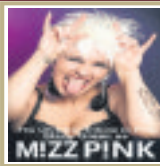
FRIDAY 7TH JULY
TYLER JON
Great Evening with a Great Entertainer Plus Disco



SATURDAY 8TH JULY
IN THE AIR TONIGHT
Phil Collins Tribute
Keith Dee brings to life one of Britain's finest Singer/Song-writers in a highly entertaining tribute show



FRIDAY 14TH JULY
ALEX PLUS DISCO
Fabulous Young Song Bird Followed by DJ Ben!



SATURDAY 15TH JULY
PINK TRIBUTE
Awesome Tribute from Stacey Green plus DJ BEN



FRIDAY 21ST JULY
SEAN HAVEN
MALE VOCALIST
Performing Songs from the 70s to Present Day including all those Boy Band Classics



SATURDAY 22ND JULY
ARIANA GRANDE TRIBUTE
Fantastic Tribute to today's Hottest Star plus DJ BEN



FRIDAY 28TH JULY
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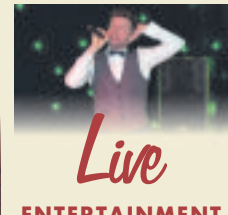
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Before 10pm

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STARMAKERS KARAOKE

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Sup it up – it's pure genius Bar none

IF the West Midlands were to hand out a lifetime achievement award, a Godlike Genius Award or a most-influential restaurateur gong, there would be only one winner: Andreas Antona.

For all of the Michelin stars that Birmingham and Ludlow have garnered over the past 20 years, for all of the improved standing that the region has enjoyed, Andreas has maintained his position at the forefront. He's had a star for longer than anyone else, he's employed and influenced more cooks and his imprint on the region's dining scene has become indelible.

Andreas was a mentor to some of the region's biggest and best chefs – the likes of fellow Michelin-star holders Luke Tipping of Simpsons and Glynn Purnell of Purnell's, not forgetting the multi-award-winning Andy Waters, of Waters Restaurant.

MEMORABLE

He's created a number of truly memorable restaurants during his many years in the region, most notably Simpsons, which he created in Kenilworth in 1993 then relocated to Edgbaston, and The Cross, at Kenilworth. More recently, he has collaborated with Paul Halsey, from Purity Brewing Co, to create Purecraft Bar and Kitchen, which has branches in Birmingham and Nottingham. And, as you'd expect, the food is absolutely stunning.

And yet Pure Bar is about much more than just great nosh. It celebrates the remarkable rise of craft beers, which have become ubiquitous in fashionable towns and cities across the UK.

Pure Bar is at the vanguard of that new wave of craft ales. Its mission is to create new beer fans. And it believes that matching great food and beer in an interesting atmosphere is the key to pleasurable

Raspberry beer arctic roll and white chocolate



Modern look – inside has an industrial vibe



evenings. The Birmingham branch opened in March 2014 and has exceeded expectation. It won the Great British Pub Awards National Award for Best Beer Pub in 2015 – the industry's Oscar equivalent – and remains at the cutting edge of great beer and food.

Andreas and Halsey are partnered by logistics and service man, Martin Hilton, a former director with Mitchells & Butler, to make their operation tick. Hashtag #DreamTeam. Pure Bar is about more than just great food and drink, however. It's a great environment in which to socialise and relax. Located at the far end of

Colmore Row, it's a short distance from the Town Hall, Symphony Hall and financial district. That means there's a constant buzz, day and night. On weekdays, it's full of city types and evenings with couples, friends and others and at weekends there's a different crowd, filling the venue with good vibes.

I visited for a midweek lunch and enjoyed a dining experience where food and service were both of the highest standard. The menu is a triumph. Though Antona made his name by inspiring a generation of Michelin-star chefs to cook the best fine dining in the

West Midlands, Pure Bar is all about the simple things in life. So delicious fish and chips is served along with steak and fries, sausage rolls, Black Country pork pies and free range pickled eggs. Nothing could be cooler. Except, of course, under Antona's brilliant gaze, the humble beef patty is elevated into a new realm. There are sharing boards of great cheese and charcuterie and the suppliers are the best in the region.

With flavoursome dishes, brilliant craft ales and polished service, it's pure enjoyment.

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CRADLEY HEATH, Bishops Walk£1,350 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished modern detached house in this very desirable location comprising of: 5 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, study, fitted kitchen/diner, utility, master bedroom with en-suite, house bathroom, driveway, 2 garages, one converted into office/playroom, front & rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Station Road£850 pcm+Fees
Modern 4 bedroom detached house in this very convenient location benefiting from an en-suite master bedroom, 3 double bedrooms, good size reception room with patio doors leading to rear garden, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs w.c., upstairs family bathroom, gas central heating & double glazed throughout. EPC: C



AMBLECOTE, High Street £795 pcm+Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent a home on a select development. 'Crystal Gardens'. Featuring 3 generous size bedrooms (master with en-suite) finished to an exceptional standard. This home features a spacious lounge/dining area, well appointed kitchen, downstairs WC, the 1st floor has 2 bedrooms & a family bathroom & on the 2nd floor there is a master bedroom with a large en-suite, 2 Allocated parking space for 2 cars, front & rear gardens. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Beecher Street£675 pcm+Fees
A deceptively large unfurnished bungalow which is ideal for buses to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Birmingham and in the catchment area for Colley Lane Primary School. Featuring 3 bedrooms, a large lounge, modern fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower. Benefits include central heating, double glazing, driveway parking. **NO ACCESS TO THE LOFT.** EPC: D



TIPTON, Leveson Drive £650 pcm+Fees
•• UNDERGOING A RE-DECORATION •• This extremely well maintained newly decorated terraced house has an excellent position on this sought after modern development within easy reach of local amenities. Briefly consists of entrance hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, lovely conservatory, 3 good sized bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking area for 2/3 cars. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Lightfields Walk£600 pcm+Fees
A newly decorated 3 bedroom modern end terrace house with new carpets throughout. Entrance hallway, large lounge with laminate flooring, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath. Eco storage heating, with oven/hob, lovely conservatory, 3 good sized bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, driveway with sheds & parking area. A must see property!! EPC: TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, Spring Avenue£595 pcm+Fees
Well presented 2 bedroom semi detached house located in a convenient location close to bus & train links. The family home comprises of a pleasant front lounge, hallway to fitted kitchen with appliances, conservatory, lovely rear garden with summer house, 2 good size bedrooms, family bathroom, large corner plot with driveway parking. EPC: TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, Newhall Road£595 pcm+Fees
Lovely 2 bedroom end terrace house newly decorated & carpeted close to Rowley Regis train station and M5 motorway comprises of: front lounge with laminate flooring, modern fitted kitchen with oven/hob, private rear garden, 2 double bedrooms, central heating driveway for 2 cars. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Heartland Mews£575 pcm+Fees
A modern 2 bedroom semi-detached house in a pleasant cul-de-sac position, and close to Blackheath town centre, comprising of 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazed throughout, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, driveway for two cars. Viewings are highly recommended. EPC: C



QUARRY BANK, New Street£575 pcm+Fees
A unique detached bungalow within walking distance of Quarry Bank High Street and a stones throw from Merry Hill Shopping Centre. This 1 bed property features: hallway, lounge with feature fireplace and patio doors leading to garden, double bedroom, bathroom with separate shower. The bungalow also benefits from long driveway, gas central heating and double glazed. EPC: D



ERDINGTON, Park Approach£550 pcm+Fees
A ground floor 2 bedroom flat, being heated with electric storage heaters and located conveniently for Gravelly Hill Railway Station. The accommodation which is access via a secure communal entrance comprises a reception hall, two bedroom, bathroom with electric shower over, lounge / diner and fitted kitchen with dishwasher, electric over and fridge, communal parking is available, together with a secure garage.



HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£550 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished 1st floor coach house apartment within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre and on a major bus route. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen with fridge freezer, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower and parking space. An internal inspection is highly recommended. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, King Street£525 pcm+Fees
Located in the heart of Old Hill with shops and train links close by. This unfurnished top floor modern apartment comprises 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: D



NETHERTON, Round Street£525 pcm+Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed. Set within a popular area, this unfurnished semi detached house features a modern living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower and a conservatory, gas central heating, rear garden, driveway for 2 cars. EPC: D
LANDLORD REQUIRES 2 MONTHS DEPOSIT AND A FAMILY MEMBER TO BE A GUARANTOR



AMBLECOTE, Villa Street £500 pcm+Fees
A beautiful ground floor modern apartment which can either be furnished or unfurnished. Newly available with open plan lounge/kitchen with modern range of fitted units, breakfast bar & integrated appliances, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with separate shower, 1 designated car parking space to rear of property, communal gardens. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Hawne Court£495 pcm+Fees
Located in a quiet, desirable neighbourhood is this well kept ground floor apartment situated at the end of a peaceful cul de sac, offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with washing machine and cooker, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space with garage. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Wycherley Way£495 pcm+Fees
A 1st floor apartment on a popular development close to Cradley Heath and Old Hill Train Station, Old Hill shops and bus links. Featuring gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, fitted kitchen with washing machine and fridge freezer, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, parking space. EPC: TBC



OLDBURY, Causeway Green Road£450 pcm+Fees
Deceptively large and spacious. A split level apartment above local shops, within walking distance to bus links for Langley and Oldbury and close to J2 of the M5 comprises gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, with the added bonus of a porch, unfurnished. EPC: D



TIPTON, Avern Close £425 pcm+Fees
Modern top floor apartment in this quiet popular location. Entrance hallway leading to lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, 1 double bedroom, shower room, electric storage heating, allocated parking space, communal gardens. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, King Street£450 pcm+Fees
Located in the heart of Old Hill. Ideally situated for local shops, buses and train links is this unfurnished 1st floor modern apartment which comprises of 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with a small fridge and freezer, spacious lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



LYVE, Eagle House £285 pcm+Fees
A 1st floor studio apartment in the centre of Lyve Town, also close for Lyve Train Station. Featuring a combined lounge/bedroom, fitted kitchen with electric cooker, shower room, electric heater, shared laundry room, parking at rear, private communal area with seating. EPC: E

PROPERTY



Spacious three-bedroomed semi-detached property

Well presented and spacious, 6 Torton Villas, Worcester Road, Low Hill, Kidderminster, is a three-double-bedroomed semi-detached house that has been extended.

KIDDERMINSTER £235,000

In a semi-rural location to the south of Kidderminster in a convenient location, it is for sale through Halls at £235,000.

The ground floor accommodation is spacious and light with a generous living room with an 'L-shaped' dining space. The living room has

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07507 765451.

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No frills make for a good ride in the new Suzuki Swift

By James Parker

When the first images of the new Swift were released, they weren't exactly met with a warm reception. To many, the character of the earlier models had been lost, leaving a rather sober-looking and soulless hatchback in their place.

The good news is that in the metal, the Swift is a car that quickly grows on you. The more time you spend with it, the more you come to like its new aesthetic. While it might not be sort of car that tugs on your heartstrings and inspires on overwhelming sense of desire when you first cast your eyes upon it, it's still an attractive little car.

If you were to sum the feel of the Swift's cabin up in one word, it would have to be 'unpretentious'. It's not the sort of car that's gunning for the position of best in class as far as its interior is concerned, which means you can forgive the abundance of scratchy plastics that are used throughout.

The Swift won't be the subject of many complaints as far as interior space is concerned – particularly in the front. Headroom is plentiful, and while the Suzuki is a fairly compact little car, it certainly doesn't feel cramped.

Family buyers will be pleased to hear that a similar theme continues in the back seats, too. Although the new Swift might be 10mm shorter than its predecessor,



The Swift isn't big – but you'll still have room for weekend bags

headroom has not been compromised in the rear, and adults will be able to sit in comfort even if they find themselves behind a taller front passenger.

At 254 litres, boot space is hardly class leading, but it will easily swallow a couple of weekend bags and still leave a fair amount of space to spare.

Suzuki offers the Swift with a choice of two different petrol engines. The first is the 1.0-litre, three-cylinder Boosterjet unit that has appeared in the likes of the Baleno and S-Cross and was fitted to our test car. In standard guise, it produces 110bhp and 170Nm of torque, and is capable of shifting the Suzuki from 0-60mph in a not-so-swift 10.4 seconds when paired with a manual transmission.

Our test car featured Suzuki's 'mild hybrid' system, known as SHVS. This offers a slight – although barely noticeable – boost in performance over the regular engine, while fuel economy improves from 61.4mpg to 65.7mpg. CO2 emissions stand at 97g/km with SHVS, compared with the standard engine's 104g/km.

While the Boosterjet is certainly a competent little motor, and does a good job of getting the Swift up to speed in a respectable fashion, under hard acceleration it does sound strained.

A larger 1.2-litre four-cylinder engine is also available with the Swift. It produces 89bhp and 120Nm of torque for a 0-60mph time of 11.7 seconds. This engine is also available with the SHVS system, which allows for CO2 emissions of 101g/km, while fuel economy stands at 62.8mpg on the combined cycle.

While the Swift is by no means a hugely powerful car, thanks to its small size and the fact that it weighs just 840kg, on a windy road it feels like a little go-kart. The steering is light and allows you to point the Swift where you want with ease, while the notchy five-speed manual has a purposeful feel to it.

There is a fair amount of body roll through the corners, but as far as grip is concerned, the Swift feels planted. Rough surfaces can cause it to bounce around a bit, however, so it will be interesting to see how it copes on British tarmac.

The Swift was well-mannered on the motorway and didn't feel unstable at cruising speeds. While there was a fair amount of wind noise, it isn't enough to make a long journey exhausting.

In town, its small proportions made navigating tight, busy streets much easier.

Suzuki can consider the new Swift a job well done. It's certainly not the most exciting car on the market, or the most luxurious, but there was something rather charming about its unpretentious, no-nonsense manner.



The car's new design quickly grows on potential buyers

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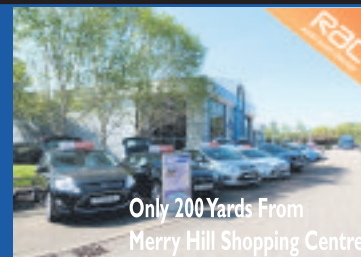
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Honda 'driving machine' packs a punch

By Ian Donaldson

DON'T tell BMW, but someone has pinched its famous boast; buy one and you'll have the 'ultimate driving machine'.

The cheeky interloper is Honda, more specifically the company's latest, hottest, brashiest, loudest version of the Civic Type R.

And there on a presentation screen at the press drive event in BMW's homeland were the three words that the 169mph Civic wants to take as its own.

But, you ask, is 320 horsepower and a deeply serious approach to building this winged, spoilered and extravagantly vented Type R enough to deserve any of that trio of well used words?

Quite probably; there is no denying its performance potential and Honda has the video to prove it.

Around the notoriously unforgiving Nürburgring race track, long considered too dangerous for grand prix cars but now a stretch of tortuous tarmac for everyone to hire at 25 euros a lap.

The latest Type R polished off the 14.1 miles in 7mins 43.8secs to claim a record for any front-wheel drive production car. If you're the sort of youngish thruster who might sell his mother for a down payment on a new one, this time matters. A lot.

Other rivals – the likes of the Ford Focus RS and Volkswagen's Golf R – are also no slouches round the Ring but the Type R is unarguably in the mix now. It is also, by a useful margin, less expensive than either of them.

You can have the hottest Honda hatch for £30,995 but nearly everyone will find another £2,000 for the GT model, which comes with goodies including satellite navigation, dual zone climate control, wireless charging pad, 11 speaker sound system and a clutch of added safety features like blind spot warning and cross traffic monitor which keeps watch as you reverse from a parking space.

None of these features are fundamental to the nature of the beast that is the new Type R. And at its beating heart is a modestly

reworked version of the 2.0 litre engine from the old car, forcing 320 metric horses (up 10 horsepower) through its front wheels, now wrapped in larger alloys and carrying wider, super sticky tyres.

Thank a turbocharger for giving the Type R the sort of mid-range back shove you might be pleased with in a junior Lamborghini and enough to max out at 169mph, not approached on an unrestricted but busy stretch of autobahn, with this driver finding the brake pedal as the speedo eagerly chased its way to double the UK motorway limit.

The hot RS from Ford manages 165mph and is usefully faster to 62mph than the Honda (4.7 seconds plays 5.7 seconds) but it feels less ferocious, which may not be a virtue in this type of machine.

Magic

The £33,500 Golf R is also quicker to the magic 62mph than the newcomer, posting a 4.7 seconds time but its top speed is electronically limited to a 'mere' 155mph. It also feels more mature and less exciting to drive, and might well appeal to a rather different sort of enthusiast.

Buying the Honda will save you a PCP payment (£299 monthly on a three-year contract) thanks to lower exhaust emissions, with a £500 first year tax hit versus £800 for the Ford and VW (actual CO2 readings are 170/175/180g/km).

You won't buy any of these hottest hatches to worry about fuel economy, but for the record the Honda is officially best at 38.7mpg with the Golf next at 37.7mpg and the Ford trailing with 36.7mpg. None will approach that on the road, of course, let alone if let loose on a circuit track day.

But back to the bits that might make you badly want a four-door Civic Type R parked outside the house, raring to head for a track or deserted mountain pass high in the Alps.

We've looked at the engine, but the engineers have been equally thorough in every other go-faster aspect of this Swindon-built superhatch.

So, the brakes are big and made by Brembo,



Put away £33,000 for the Honda, which will really zoom up to 62mph

the go-to name for superior stopping power. A little larger than before, they took several laps of the many cornered EuroSpeedway without complaint, as did the specially developed Continental tyres with rubber as clingy as a needy child in a stop.

There are now three driving modes, from comfort (which did a decent job of taming the ride on Germany's surreally smooth roads) through sport, which tightens throttle, steering and damping to +R for the race track, where things sharpen to a scimitar-like level.

All those body add-ons – enough to raise a smile and thumb's up from a German van driver alongside in a traffic jam (yes, in Germany!) also make the Type R the only one of its breed to actually force the car down on the road at speed.

Away from the track the Type R ought to prove a mostly undemanding companion when you simply want to get somewhere briskly, although the eyeball attracting triple exhaust pipe, especially developed to dampen droning in the cockpit is only a partial

success. Ditto the revised rear suspension, which sets out to stop a mild uneasiness from the rear under heavy braking but still lets you know the back wheels are working hard as you slow hard.

Minor details, these, in a car that shows Honda – once likened to a Japanese BMW thanks to its engineering focus – is fighting hard to wrench the German marque's slogan from them.

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Jordanne hits an ace with Suzuki Vitara at a family-run dealership

Jordanne Whiley MBE, the Paralympic medallist and multiple grand slam-winning wheelchair tennis player, has collected a brand new Suzuki Vitara SZ-T from the family-run Halesowen Motor House dealership on Dudley Road in Halesowen.

The 24-year-old chose the specially-adapted Galactic Grey compact SUV for its stylish looks and comprehensive specification.

Coming with air conditioning, satellite navigation, electric windows and 17-inch alloy wheels as standard, as well as up to 710 litres of luggage capacity, Jordanne required a car which would accommodate two wheelchairs and several bags for her training and competitive commitments.

Jordanne Whiley MBE, said: "This is the first Suzuki that I have ever owned and I fell in love with the Vitara as soon as I saw it.

"It's very spacious, highly practical and economical to run, which is ideal, as I travel up and down the country and need to transport a lot of sports gear between venues.

"Furthermore, with the added benefit of an affordable package on the Motability Scheme, it's the perfect formula."

Andy Cooper, general manager at Halesowen Motor House, added: "We were delighted when Jordanne got in touch with us to help her meet her requirements, and we are very pleased that she now has a car that ticks all the boxes.

"The Suzuki Vitara has proved one of the most popular purchases on the Motability



Jordanne Whiley and Andy Cooper at Halesowen Motor House

programme, a worry-free leasing initiative which we have always been very passionate about.

"We wish her many years of enjoyable motoring as she starts her journey with Suzuki."

Halesowen Motor House is located at Dudley Road, Halesowen, B63 3NH.

For further information on the Suzuki product range, or to book a test drive, call 0121 503 0001 or visit <https://cars.suzuki.co.uk/dealers/halesowen-motor-house>.



Aaron Rai meets Colin Montgomerie as a five-year-old



As a youngster in his back garden putting green in Perton



Aaron aged 11 at Patshull Park with pro Richard Bissell



Aaron Rai in action earlier this year



Playing at 3 Hammers, aged four, watched by Gary Gilligan

From putting in the back garden to a Major player

WISCONSIN is a long way from Wolverhampton – but it is a journey made possible by dedication, determination and no little talent.

So when 22-year-old Aaron Rai, who was born in Wolverhampton and raised in Perton, stepped out for the US Open at Erin Hills, he was rubbing shoulders with the cream of world golf, including four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy and World No.1 Dustin Johnson. Brooks Koepka took home the trophy.

But Rai, who was watched by proud parents Amrik Singh and Dalvir Shukl, insisted it had been an 'amazing experience'.

The Patshull Park member enjoyed a great start to his Major championship debut in the first round. The 22-year-old was in the third group out and birdied the par-five first to claim an early share of the lead.

He ended day one with a one-over-par 73 but a round of 80 on day two meant he missed the cut.

But the former Perton Primary School and Wolverhampton Grammar School boy, who has recorded two victories on the Challenge Tour this season, insisted he had enjoyed his experience. "It was great," he said. "It was an amazing experience although I wasn't aware of sharing the lead after one hole – maybe 71 holes early!"

Automatic

Rai booked his place at Erin Hills by winning the 36-hole international qualifying event at Walton Heath and another win on the Challenge Tour would secure automatic promotion to the European Tour.

"It's been a fantastic season so far, I couldn't have asked for anything more," added Rai.

"It's amazing to get a taste of it and it would be fantastic to have more opportunities in the future," he said.

At 7,845 yards, Erin Hills was the longest course in Major championship history, but Rai was not one of the players to complain about the deep rough lining the fairways.

"I thought it was a great course," he added. "It's a very good test but it's also fair at the same time. If you play well, get the ball in position and hit some good approach shots the greens are perfect so you can

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

"He's just like anyone from the public, no big ego thinking he is the best player in the world or anything like that."

give yourself some chances. But if you're a little bit out on all of those you could run up some numbers on any hole. It was tough but very fair."

Major competition capped an incredible rise for the young professional is currently in just his second year on the European Challenge Tour – the second tier of professional golf.

Rai made a stunning breakthrough winning the Kenya Open, in March, just weeks after his 22nd birthday.

"Kenya was very special to win," he said. "My mum was there and she was born in Kenya. It was a very special week."

From that success, a number of consistent performances have seen him shoot up the Challenge Tour order of merit as well as the world rankings.

Another victory followed in Andalucia, Spain, putting him within one more Challenge Tour victory of securing a pass through to the full European Tour.

"If you win three times in a year on the Challenge Tour you are through to the European Tour for the rest of this year and next year too," he said. "I've had a pretty steady and consistent level of performance this year."

"The top 15 players get on to the European Tour by right but I've only made a good start so far. There's still a long, long way to go."

Rai has progress from his back garden putting green at his home in Perton where his family still lives – through coaching sessions at the 3 Hammers complex in Coven and on to the fairways at Patshull Park as one of its youngest members.

The putting green at home is still there but it

doesn't look quite so new nowadays, said Rai. But he believed his own hard work was paying dividends.

"Certainly with any sport you have to work hard to achieve your ambitions," he said. "It's a whole lifestyle that you have to adopt."

That has been in evidence since he was swinging a club as a four-year-old with his dad, and remembered by those who helped develop Rai's burgeoning golfing talent of prodigious proportions.

Richard Bissell, Patshull Park's resident professional, remembers Aaron's work ethic well and is thrilled to see him find a place at golf's top table.

"It is fantastic. I keep in touch with him on social media and I see him down the club quite often," he said.

"When he's not playing, he is usually down here, in the gym."

"It is testament to the hard work and his level-headedness over the years – he has never got too big for his boots."

"He keeps himself to himself a bit, but he's just a nice guy and level-headed."

Progress

And Bissell added: "He's just like anyone from the public, no big ego thinking he is the best player in the world or anything like that. I have known him since he was five. I remember us welcoming him here, and we have seen him progress."

"I said to quite a few people to watch out for him around six months ago, and he has proved me right."

And Ian Bonser, the owner of the 3 Hammers complex, also recalls a young boy driven to succeed, turning into a man with immense dedication to his craft.

"Aaron has been a regular visitor here since he was about four," he recalled.

"I've got a newspaper cutting from when he was a boy and it says he was born at 3.33am on the third of the third – and got his first hole-in-one on the par three course here."

And Bonser added: "Aaron is still a regular visitor here and he is still the same lad who came in back in about 1999."

"The one thing I would say about him is he is the hardest working, most dedicated person I've seen. Nobody deserves to do well more."

Glad it's over as £1m Wolves misfit departs

MISFIT Paul Gladon says he's pleased to have returned to former club Heracles after his difficult year at Wolves. The £1m signing made just three scoreless appearances in gold and black and last played for the first team in September.

Ex-boss Paul Lambert said Gladon wasn't 'up to speed' for the Championship and the Dutchman didn't feature in a first-team squad under the Scot. The former Sparta Rotterdam striker, aged 25, rejoined Eredivisie side Heracles on a season-long loan deal. He scored six goals in 27 appearances during his previous season with the club in 2015/16.

Gladon, who had signed a three-year contract with Wolves last summer, struggled to adapt in England country on his own – but said joining Wolves was still an opportunity he couldn't turn down.

"I had some minutes at the beginning of the season, then I had to only train," Gladon told Heracles' official website. If you do not play games and only allowed to train, it is not good to very often be 'home alone'.

Grassroots heroes are commended at awards

STAFFORDSHIRE FA's grassroots heroes were honoured at the Community Awards at Stoke's Bet365 stadium. A total of 15 awards were given to honour the achievements of clubs, representatives and leagues over the past 12 months.

Wyrley Juniors won the FA Charter Standard Community Club Award, while the Walsall Junior Youth League won the FA Charter Standard League Award, with the Staffordshire County Senior League applauded.

The Coach of the Year went to Bilbrook Juniors' Mark Smith Park, with Paige Snape of Chasetown FC awarded the Young Volunteer of the Year prize. The Staffordshire Ladies Over 30s League was also winners, as the Best Inclusive Project.

Bilston Town CFC's Denise Frankham was highly commended for the People's Choice Award for Outstanding Contribution to Community Football, and Chris Burton, from Hawkins Sports FC, was recognised for the FA Groundsman of the Year at Step 7 or Below.

Girls vie to get hands on tournament trophy

THE Midlands is leading the way in handball participation for girls, with more than 700 13-to-15-year-olds taking up the sport in the last year.

And next Tuesday, 100 girls from across the Midlands will compete in the first Cameron Homes Girls Handball Tournament at Aldersley Stadium, Wolverhampton. It will see teams from South Derbyshire, Shropshire, Sutton Coldfield and Cannock Chase compete in two age groups – under-13 and under-15 – attempting to win the first of the annual events.

Handball coach and tournament organiser Nenad Popovic said: "We're building a strong foundation in the Midlands by encouraging young girls to become more active and get involved with handball. The Cameron Homes tournament is fantastic opportunity for girls to get a taste for competitive handball and see why so many people have fallen in love with the sport."

Girls Handball has seen a huge increase in participation over the past 12 months, with teams in Sutton Coldfield, Telford and Burntwood all forming junior teams. Cannock are the current under-18 national champions.



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Tonks joins Moors from Glassboys

STOURBRIDGE skipper Tom Tonks has left the Glassboys, following in the footsteps of Luke Benbow and Chris Lait by signing for National League outfit Solihull Moors.

The 25-year-old central midfielder chalked up 96 appearances for Gary Hackett's men over the course of two spells after initially arriving at the War Memorial Ground in the summer of 2015. He netted seven times.

Stourbridge have announced that season tickets and flexi tickets for the 2017/18 campaign will be available for supporters to buy in person from the club this Sunday between 11am and 1pm. Sales continue during the following week with the club shop open from 1 to 2.30pm Monday-Friday.

Adult season tickets covering the club's Evo-stik League Premier Division home games cost £170, for senior citizens (65 and over), the charge is £115, while for juniors 13-18 years of age, it is £85. For league matches, children aged 12 and under will be admitted free of charge provided they are accompanied by a paying adult or adult season ticket holder.

Flexi season tickets, comprising of 12 numbered vouchers that can be used at any home league game, can also be purchased. For adults the cost is £100, senior citizens (65 and over) £70 and juniors 13-18 years old £50.

Full details and an application form can be downloaded at www.stourbridgefc.com

Runners at double under monicker of Black Country

THERE was the possibility of a Black Country double at the weekend for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club with the option of a half marathon along the canal towpath on Saturday or a 10k around the streets on Sunday, both events using the Black Country moniker.

The first option was the Birmingham and Black Country Half Marathon, a point to point race from Wolverhampton following the canal and finishing in Brindley Place, Birmingham. Steve Holdcroft had a fifth place finish in 1.20.30. Zoe Marklew finished in 2.08.17 to take 724th place, Malcolm Beddall was 871st and Tony Noke was 872nd in the same time of 2.19.10.

The next day runners was the Black Country 10k, a two lap course around the streets of Halesowen. Stuart Perkins led them home in sixth in 37.40, Dave Norman finished in 38.58 to take 10th place and claim second in age group.

Sandwiched in between was the Timberhonger 10k, a tough race in Bromsgrove. Kieran Pitt topped the clock in 43.08 to take 57th place.

Holding court with hero Henman



Mark Tanner, Ed Bull, Charlotte Robbins and Faye Robbins with Tim Henman

DUDLEY tennis player Mark Tanner was delighted to meet up with his hero Tim Henman at the Jaguar Championships.

Tanner and David Lloyd Dudley team-mates Ed Bull, Charlotte Robbins and Faye Robbins took part in the national finals of the competition in Raynes Park, London.

More than 1,600 players from 417 teams took part in the mixed-doubles event. Former British No.1 Henman watched on, while a prize of Wimbledon Centre Court tickets were up for grabs,

plus the chance to drive Jaguar's All-New F-PACE – World Car of the Year 2017 – for a weekend.

Tanner, aged 35, said he was delighted to meet his tennis hero. "It was a very good day, there was a good challenge around," he said. "My first memory of Wimbledon is watching Tim going through some five-set thrillers, begging him not to lose, and he's been really great for British tennis."

"The standard in the final was much, much higher than the regionals, which was great to be a part of."

HEAT IS ON FOR SHELLEY RIVALS

LLOYD Shelley once again proved too hot to handle on the one of the warmest days of the year as he returned to action for round three of the Darley Moor championships.

The Burntwood star, back at the Derbyshire track after missing the previous round due to Thundersport GB commitments, blasted away all his rivals to claim four wins.

The 33-year-old also broke two race records on his way to double victories in the Sound of Thunder and Formula 600 classes.

Two wins came inarley spokesman Brian George said: "The opening win came in the Formula 600 class, while Shelley also doubled up in the combined Sound of Thunder/Mini Sound of Thunder/Lightweight races."

The results leave Shelley top of the Sound of Thunder class, despite missing a meeting, by six points, and he has also closed the gap to Steve Procter to just eight points in the Formula 600.

Stone's Andrew Lowe was also back on the pace in the combined Steel Framed 600/Pre Injection 600 races, himself taking two flag-to-flag victories on his Pre Injection machine. Lowe holds on to second spot in the Pre Injection up to 1300cc class, two points ahead of Mark Brailsford.

Passenger Keith Box, from Wolverhampton, and his driver Anthony Eades were also flying, taking the class honours for the 1000cc sidecar machines in both races.

The result means the pair lead the Open Sidecars championships by 15 points.

There was further good news for the Black Country as Dudley's Mark Cockerton took one of the two Classic 350 victories, to sit just four points off class leader Simon Collins in the title table. Round four of the Darley Moor championship is on July 16. Entry costs £12 for the day, free for under-16s and £8 for senior citizens.



Dudley's Mark Cockerton took one of the two Classic 350 victories. Picture: Tony Else

Cradley fall to Potters after close fight

CRADLEY fell to Stoke after the home side gained only their second win of the season in a hard fought 47-43 victory on Sunday evening.

The A.R. Richards Potters gained an opening heat 4-2 from Mitchell Davey and Ryan Terry-Daley over Ben Morley to lead early on before Cradley struck back with a 4-2 from for-

mer Potter James Cockle and Luke Harriss.

The Potters then had a mid-meeting rally of heat victories which really caused the damage, starting with a 5-1 from Davey and Terry-Daley over Shelby Rutherford after Heathens skipper Tom Perry had pulled up with mechanical problems.

STOKE 47: Paul Burnett 12+1, Mitchell Davey 10, Tony Atkin 9, Ryan Terry-Daley 6+2, Luke Priest 5, David Wallinger 4+1, Joe Alcock 1.

CRADLEY 43: Ben Morley 13+1, Tom Perry 9+2, Conor Dwyer 6, James Cockle 5, Shelby Rutherford 4+1, Luke Harris 4, Joe Lawlor 2+1.

Meanwhile, the Heathens were mourning former rider Ila Teromaa, a firm favourite on the Dudley Wood terraces, who has died aged 63.

Hales go nap but skipper stays calm

HALESOWEN skipper Richard Brooker insists they cannot get carried away despite extending their unbeaten run to five successive weeks.

A tremendous performance saw them thrash Penkridge on Saturday to continue their fine run of form and climb up to fourth in the table. Brooker is encouraged by their progress but knows they need to remain focused heading into the remainder of the season.

Said Brooker: "The players and off-field personnel have worked very hard to help us get to fourth which just proves after the start we had how hard we have to work to go two places higher and still stay there. It's up to us to keep doing the same things well and add a bit more too if we can."

Brooker and Eddie Rhodes each took three wickets as Penkridge were dismissed for 147, before Hassan Quami (91 not out) and Mohammed Shaub (54 not out) put on an unbroken 146 stand to see them cruise to a nine-wicket win.

The Second XI suffered a four-wicket defeat to Astwood Bank. Hassam Akram (43) and Richard Cox (41) helped them recover from 12-4 to reach 166, but Astwood Bank chased the total with ease.

There was more success for the Third XI, however, who comfortably saw off Alveley. Carl Bust took 5-19 to dismiss Alveley for just 189 before they knocked off the runs in just 36 overs to win by six wickets.

A strong showing from Callum Gutteridge (42) was not enough to prevent the Fourth XI being bowled out for 97 and losing by seven-wickets against Alvechurch.

Summers emotional after title defeat

TIPTON'S Ricky Summers admitted he was brought to the verge of tears after missing out on the British light-heavyweight title at London's O2 Arena on Saturday.

Summers was outpointed by Enfield's Frank Buglioni going down by a unanimous decision on the judges' cards – 116-113, 115-114 and 118-111.

Afterwards Summers said: "Frank is a great champion and can hold a shot very well. I would love to do it again."

"I want to be on the big stage and am absolutely gutted – I could cry."

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